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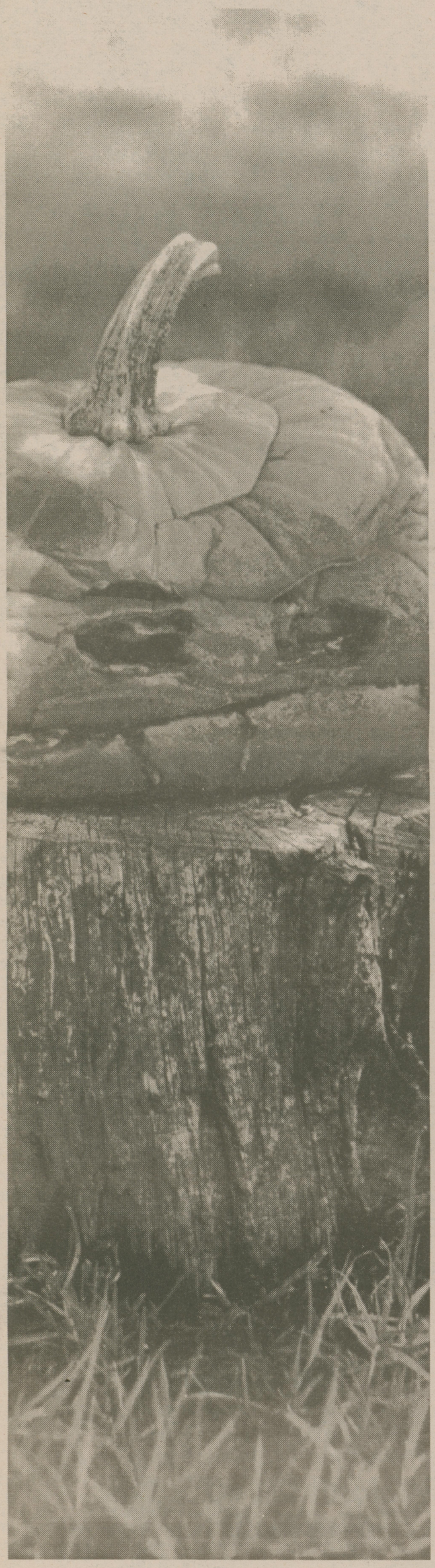
Thursday, October 30, 2003 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 12



Halloween

Dark side of the dark night

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Burlesque

Feminists revive art of the tease

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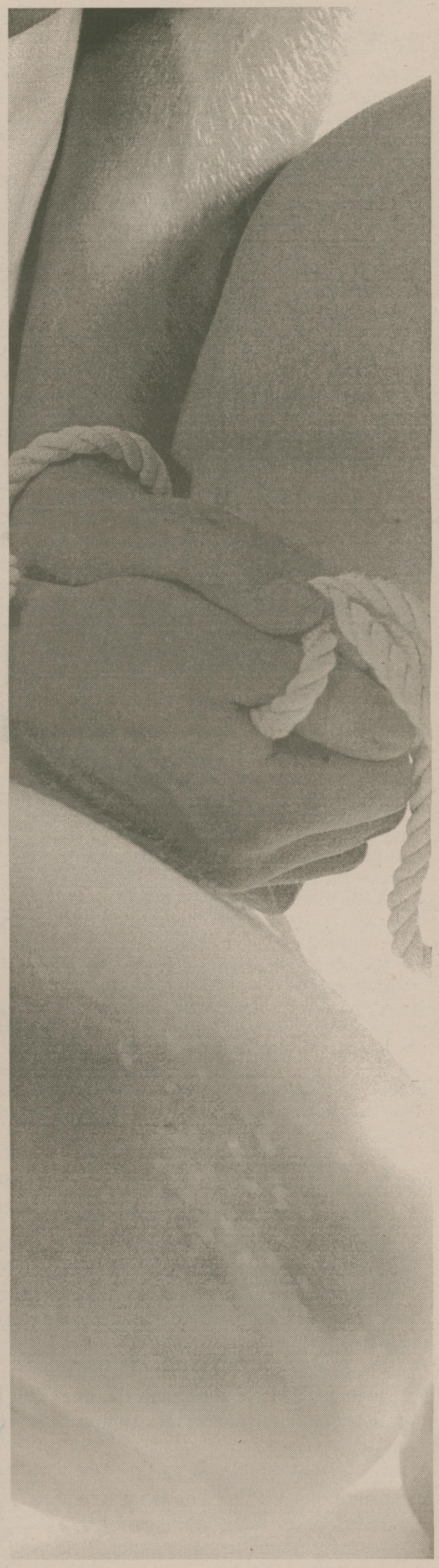


Bondage

Safe, sane and consensual

page three

Alcoholics Anonymous on campus beat

Forum educates students about alcoholism

BY LAURIE BURNS

A forum aimed at exposing the dangers of alcoholism drew a small but attentive student audience to Residence Underground on the UVic campus, where three Alcoholics Anonymous members recounted their tailspins into "the disease of denial."

The Oct. 23 forum, a fixture of Alcohol Awareness Week on campus, was the anchor in a series of events organized by resident advisors to raise awareness of responsible drinking and alcohol-free alternatives to the roughly 1,700 students living in residence at UVic.

The speakers, who identified themselves by their first names to preserve anonymity, are at different stages on AA's road to sobriety. Margaret, Jake, and Claude all stressed the dangers of alcoholism to students by relaying their own battles with the disease.

"We hear our own lives in the stories of other people," said Margaret, a former social worker who entered AA treatment two years ago after her addiction almost claimed her life. Although it has been 30 years since she attended university, Margaret remembers the pressure to blend into a demanding social atmosphere. "All my friends drank," she said, "that was my milieu."

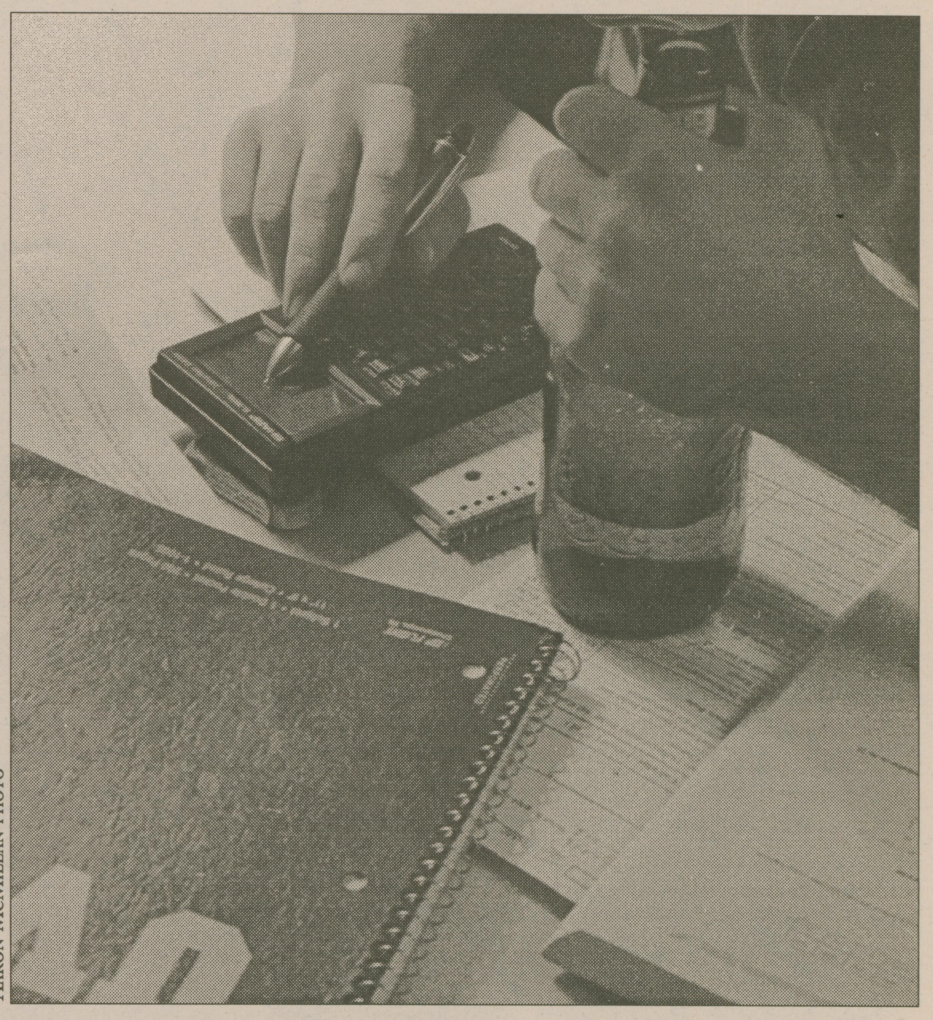
Jake, a Victoria native whose destructive habits left him homeless and jailed before he committed to AA, discussed the danger of associating with the wrong crowd due to drinking. His battle with alcoholism caused him to lose his family, friends, and career. "I blew it all for a drink," he said, citing a sense of "false pride" as the reason he didn't ask for help until it was almost too late.

Residence Area Coordinator Joe McGibbon believed the forum's power lay in the speakers' uncensored anecdotes. "They really hit home with students," he said.

McGibbon worried that students, especially those living in residence, may lack the resources needed to make responsible decisions regarding alcohol use. "Our goal was to make the information available, and make people aware of the alternatives," he said.

Claude, a 22-year veteran of AA's treatment program, recalled the fear that marked his own teenage years and induced his alcoholism. "I turned down so many opportunities because of my unfounded and ungrounded fear," he said, referring to his decision to reject a hockey scholarship to the University of Minnesota. Claude tried to fill his "ache of loneliness" with alcohol, which led him deeper into a spiral of addiction. One of his concerns is that students in search of "a lack of inhibition" are susceptible to excessive drinking.

Although each speaker shared experiences that demonstrated the detrimental effects of alcohol, the purpose of the forum wasn't to condemn drinking on campus. "We're not here to point fingers," Claude said, who encouraged students to "have fun, enjoy it, but drink responsibly."



AARON MCMILLAN PHOTO

An Alcoholics Anonymous forum addresses drinking issues on campus, especially among students in residence.

Lottery signals first step towards electoral reform

BY ANGELA HILL

Two sweaty-palmed UVic students waited Thursday evening to see if they would be selected to be part of the Citizens' Assembly on Electoral Reform.

The Citizens' Assembly is an independent, non-partisan assembly of individuals who will meet to examine the province's electoral system–that is, how votes determine who gets elected to sit in the provincial legislature.

Neither of the students ended up being one of the eight randomly selected to participate in what assembly administrator Susanna Hass termed "a unique, fantastic and historic event."

"[Those who] responded to the first letters sent out were super excited," Hass said. This was apparent in the conference room of the Laurel Point Inn as names were being pulled from a hat.

"I so rarely draw the lucky ticket so this is very exciting," said Carl Andersen, the newly-selected male representative from Saanich South. "This process had to happen eventually. Those elected for rule don't necessarily hold a majority of votes and they should."

By Nov. 25 one male and one female from each of the 79 B.C. ridings will have been selected. The ridings from around Victoria were selected at the meeting Thursday night.

The average age of those selected was over 50 and many of these members are retired, allowing them to commit every other weekend to the assembly for the year 2004.

"It does represent those who are most politically active," said Robert Howl, the 25-year-old UVic hopeful. "The average age is expected to be older."

Four other provinces are undertaking the process of electoral reform, but B.C. is unique in that it is placing the decision-making in the hands of the public.

The first few months involves a study of various methods of elections worldwide. Two renowned researchers, Dr. Ken Carty from the University of British Columbia and Dr. Campbell Sharman from Australia, will bring their knowledge of electoral systems to the assembly.

A public hearing phase, during which 41 meetings will be held province-wide, will collect further input from citizens.

In the final deliberations phase, the assembly will report on whether the current electoral system needs to be amended. If it deems a change to be necessary, there will be a referendum in the 2005 election to decide whether to accept the assembly's proposed reforms.

"No doubt this is a political move by the government to keep [the province] happy," said Howland, "But it is something that needs to be done."

VIPIRG
Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group

Annual General Meeting and Election of Directors

All current VIPIRG community members and UVIC students who have not collected a refund this year are members in good standing and eligible to vote in both the AGM and election, and to run as a candidate in the election. Students will need their valid student ID.

AGM & Election: November 27, 2003
7:00 pm, UVIC Grad Student Building, Rm 108
Join us for refreshments and an update of VIPIRG activities!

AGM Agenda:
• Appointment of meeting Chair
• Approval of VIPIRG's financial statements
• Review of the year's activities at VIPIRG
• Candidate Statements & Question Period with candidates for the Board of Directors
• VOTE! Polling for Board Election
• Additional business

For information on running for a position as director, and to acquire a nomination form, contact Stacy Chappel at 250.472.4558 or drop by SUB B120.
Deadline for nominations: Friday November 21, 4:30 pm.
Candidate platforms will be posted at the VIPIRG office from November 24 through to the closing of polling. Additional Elections Polling: November 27 from 10-4 at the VIPIRG office SUB B122, or at the AGM.

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Bondage 101

Martlet *staffers get all tied up*

by Sarah Petrescu

PROVIDED PHOTO

"Safe, sane and consensual," is the motto of local fetish group Segacity who facilitated a Bondage 101 workshop at UVic.

Curious couples learned the ropes of bondage safety at the University of Victoria last Wednesday at a workshop dubbed "Bondage 101." And no, it was not a credit course.

"There isn't a whole lot of literature out there on practicing bondage safely," said Michael Joyce from the UVic Pride Collective, who organized the workshop with local fetish group Sagacity.

Over the past two weeks the event created a media fervor. *The Calgary Herald* warned it could promote dangerous sexual activity and, in the United States, conservative commentator Doug Patton called the workshop "immoral." Most local media sniffed around to see what all the hoopla was about. In the end, only *the Martlet* was allowed in. The catch? We have to participate.

At first glance, the workshop resembles a Lamaze class, with 11 couples sitting on blankets in a semi-circle around a large room in the Student Union Building.

A closer look reveals it is not a Lamaze class. Each pair has 100 feet of rope beside them, and the facilitator is a leggy redhead who wears a corset, six-inch stilettos and not much else. Like others, she uses a pseudonym to protect her privacy. She introduces herself as Ladyfish and her partner as Fisherman. The mood is surprisingly warm and casual, considering we are all about to be tied up.

Most of the participants are twenty-somethings who appear to be bondage novices. Ladyfish and Fisherman lay out the main points of the workshop and the Sagacity philosophy. Their motto: Safe, Sane and Consensual, a common one among fetish groups.

They are comprised mostly of heterosexual middle-aged professionals, ranging from counselors and molecular biologists to sailing instructors. There are also a lot of government workers. Fetishes range from wax play and bondage to needle piercing and whips.

Sagacity hosts frequent "play" parties–drug-, sex- and alcohol-free events–to showcase their talents, and meets once a week at a restaurant in Esquimalt. At a meeting the night before the workshop, they discussed how the media attention to the workshop could help shatter public misconceptions of kinky folk as sinister or weird.

"We need to change how people think of kinksters," Ladyfish tells the crowd of 43. "We're like queer people were 20 years ago. They can't be discriminated against now for being gay because that is not acceptable, but kinky people still have to hide their lifestyle."

Sagacity wants to connect with the gay community, which is part of the reason they are doing the workshop.

"We want to reach out to new folks and make them aware of what we are doing," said Ladyfish.

The workshop is a mix of same- and mixed-sex couples, along with a few who came as singles. The facilitators first give a bondage pep-talk, focusing on the importance of safety, trust and communication. They emphasize that no drugs or alcohol should be used in bondage play, and they firmly suggest having a safe signal word between couples if any danger arises.

"Often people get an adrenaline rush. I've seen people get sick and worked up. It is important to let each other know what you are doing and what you can take. Having a safe word that is out of context of your play is essential," said Fisherman.

The first ties are basic single limb binds. More complicated ones follow, like the Crotch Tie (aka the "ooh hoo") and the Chest Harness, which cause giggles to ripple through the room.

Soon, keener couples are testing their knowledge by awkwardly tying each other to chairs and handrails. Explanations for simple knots like the lark's head and square knot are made with analogies to tying shoes and "put the bunny in the hole" explanations. The workshop could have alternatively been called "Kinky Girl Guides" or "Boy Scout Bondage."

The grand finale is a demonstration of combination bondage called "The Forced Bow," where Fisherman ties Ladyfish in an elaborate ensemble, binding knees and chest. Bent over, forehead to feet, she has little control. The couple relies on communication and trust to execute the bind, a moment of tense intimacy.

The evening ends on a cheery vibe, with most staying behind to test out their new skills. A nearby couple said they had always been interested in bondage but didn't know how to go about doing it. They were pleased to learn some safety and technique and said they will definitely sign up again.

Ladyfish ends the night with a reminder.

"We hope you will begin to help educate that kink is not sick or twisted. It is about truth, reality and letting out all those dark secrets we have–now have fun."

The workshop organizers are currently planning Bondage 102, which will focus on suspension off the ground with ropes.

Campus Righties

Not your average love story

by Richard Warnica

Like two lovers lost on a foggy night, UVic's Progressive Conservative and Canadian Alliance clubs are lonesomely passing each other by.

It is a story familiar to junior high school students worldwide. They both talk about getting together, but neither will make the first call. Representatives of both parties were contacted by *the Martlet* this week and expressed interest in meeting, but both claimed that action at this point would be premature.

This is despite the fact that the heads of both parties' national youth wings have been meeting to plan a merger for weeks. Canadian University Press (CUP) Ottawa Bureau Chief Adam Grachnik reported last week that both sides are speaking on a daily basis about a new national young conservative organization.

In fact, Grachnik said that Adam Taylor, the PC Youth Organizer, and Robin Spree, the Alliance Youth Coordinator, have been talking since before the tentative agreement between the two parent parties was announced on Oct. 16. "We knew we had to be ready to combine. We started meeting just after the [Ontario] provincial election," Grachnick reported Taylor saying.

Compared to their Ottawa counterparts, the relations between UVic's conservative parties have been, well, conservative.

Mike Allison, president of the UVic Canadian Alliance club, said that while he was excited about the proposed merger of the two national parties, it was too soon to talk about a single on-campus club. According to Allison, the Alliance club will change to reflect any changes to the party as a whole, but their club constitution will have to be altered first.

While Allison seemed optimistic about meeting the campus PCs soon, he admitted that no contact had been established with the group this year. In fact, the last contact between the two groups was during the tenure of former UVic Alliance Club President Lisa Karoway. According to Allison, Karoway conducted some informal e-mail talks with the campus PCs but nothing was accomplished.

As for the Progressive Conservatives, according to UVSS Director of Services Scott Payne, the UVic Progressive Conservative club, though not currently active, has been active in the past. However, Saanich–Gulf Islands PC Association Director Nicola Stanford, a contact person for PC club events, was available for comment. Stanford, who is not a spokesman for the club, nor for the party in general, was optimistic about the two clubs getting together.

However, she affirmed Allison's statement that no talks about a campus merger had taken place. According to Stanford, because of "the fluid nature of events still unfolding, there have been no formal talks or discussions surrounding the merger of both UVic entities."

Considering the speed that the national youth wing bigwigs have taken in getting together, it seems surprising that nothing has happened at UVic.

Perhaps the truth is that while the two campus parties may like each other, they don't *like* like each other. You know, like more than just friends.

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Instructor: Dr. Ken Hatt, Department of Sociology
Date: Saturdays, February 14 to April 3, 2004, 10:30 am to 3:30 pm (includes lunch break)
Registration deadline: January 8, 2004

Queen Victoria back from dead to haunt Liberals

She's back and mad as hell over privatization of Barkerville

BY PATRICK WHITE

Queen Victoria took time off 102 years of pushing daisies to travel to Victoria on Oct. 22 for tea, biscuits and high-level discussions with Premier Gordon Campbell. The premier decided he had more important things to do.

Her Royal Majesty, played by Danette Boucher, wished to speak with Campbell about the provincial government's plans to hand over operation of gold rush tourist hotspot Barkerville to the private sector. She was accompanied by an entourage of about 20 fellow actors dressed in period costumes who gathered in the rain around two tables set with fine china in front of the legislature steps.

In her speech to a wet crowd of around 50, the Queen outlined the important economic and historical contributions that the thriving gold rush town of Barkerville has made to the Colony.

"I am here to support Barkerville. It is a remarkable site owned by the people of the colony and it should remain that way," she intoned in a high British accent. However, she soon fell out of character as she spoke more passionately on the subject.

"I am concerned about Barkerville because it is a world-class heritage site with over 120 heritage buildings," she added.

The event was sponsored by the Barkerville Coalition, a group trying to draw attention to what they see as destructive government policy towards historic sites like Barkerville.

For two years the government has been unsuccessfully soliciting proposals from private sector groups interested in operating the historic site. During that time George Abbott, Minister of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, laid off most of the full-time and union employees at the site to make it more attractive to potential bidders.

The only interested party to come forward has been the District of Wells. They declined submitting a formal proposal in July, 2003 over concerns about potential operating deficits.

David Jorgensen, President of the Wells Chamber of Commerce, followed the Queen to the microphone. Showing off a pair of new Vancouver Canucks lottery tickets, Jorgensen said, "These charitable gaming tickets will give millions to a private corporation [the Vancouver Canucks hockey club] that pays some of its players more than the total budget of Barkerville. Two million dollars will go to the Canucks but nothing will go to a heritage site that has been in existence for well over a hundred years."

Jorgensen joined Minister Abbott inside the legislature following his speech for a meeting–the outcome of which was unavailable at press time.

Though a formal invitation was put out to the premier, New Democrat MLA Jenny Kwan was the only legislative representative who came to greet the Queen.

Later Kwan said of Barkerville, "I think the Liberals should invest in preserving this treasure. I was there two summers ago during a hunger strike put on to preserve the Wells school. I met with kids in Wells and it was amazing to see how much Barkerville is a vital part of the community. The Liberals need to start supporting what is vital for the Heartland and for economic development."

PATRICK WHITE PHOTO

Queen Victoria, seated, is surrounded by a posse of living dead fresh from the grave to hassle the provincial government over the potential privatization of Barkerville.

Critics and fans are talking about prof rating site

BY MICHELLE MARTIN

The popular website ratemyprofessors.com is sparking controversy between faculty and students at the University of Victoria.

The website contains over 10,000 entries from UVic students who are logging on to anonymously rate their professors. Students rate each professor on a scale from one to five on helpfulness, clarity, easiness and hotness.

They can also make a short comment on the professor's teaching ability.

John Swapceinski, president and founder of ratemyprofessors.com, said, "My best estimate is there are over 1,000 UVic students a month who visit the site." Many of the site's student visitors look at other student's ratings of any of the 972 UVic professors featured on the site. Some use this information to decide which classes to choose and which classes to avoid.

Most students who use the site seem pleased with the results. "The whole concept is awesome. It means students are not stuck taking stupid-ass courses," said Kasie Stroshin, a second-year Political Science major.

"If I am deciding between two classes, I always go with the better-recommended teacher," said psychology major Jessica Gibson. "I like to know the overall quality of the teacher I will be getting and it [the website] has been fairly accurate."

Despite the positive feedback from most students, Gibson has found a downside to the site: "My sociology professor seemed really approachable. Then students in my class told me to check the website and I found all these negative comments saying that she was really unfriendly outside class. Now I'm hesitant to go up and talk to her," she said.

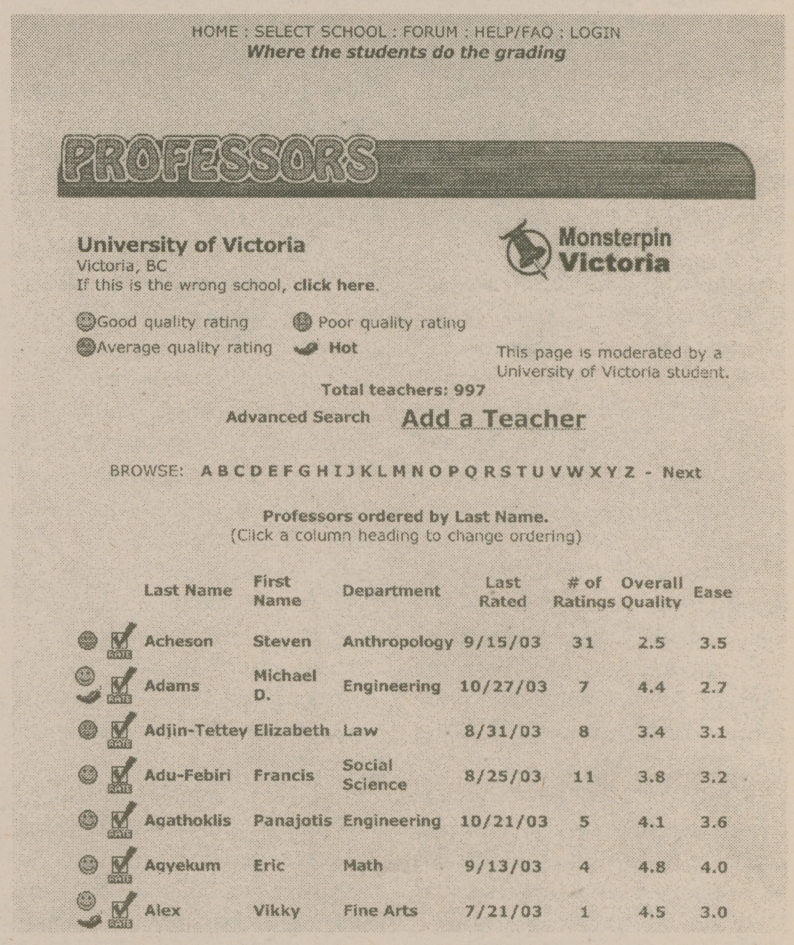
Professors are much more likely to oppose the site than students. "About 75 per cent of the feedback I receive from profs and administrators is negative, while about 90 per cent of the feedback I receive from students is positive," said Swapceinski.

Helga Hallgrímsdóttir, a sociology professor at UVic, said, "From a research perspective, the site is not a valid indicator. Most students who comment have a strong opinion about a professor." These opinions are either overwhelmingly positive or adamantly negative. She said that since most students in a class are not commenting, there is a volunteer bias and the results are invalid.

Comments about Hallgrímsdóttir's teaching ability on ratemyprofessors.com supported her claim that people who comment usually have a strong opinion. Comments were polarized, with mostly positive and some negative feedback. The positive comments said, "she's a great prof," and "very cool." The negative said, "don't even bother, you'll learn nothing," and "intimidating." Students are recognizing this professor bashing, or glorifying, trend. Gibson said, "I know that it is biased and stuff could be made up."

There is, however, a limit to the professor-bashing. All UVic comments and ratings are reviewed by a UVic student administrator before being posted. The administrator may delete distasteful comments and feedback not related to teaching ability.

Regardless of its criticisms, the North America-wide website continues to gain attention and visitors. Since its establishment in 1999, it has appeared in a number of publications, including *Seventeen* magazine and the *National Post*. The number of ratings has risen sharply, from 500,000 in February 2003, to 1,000,000 in August.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Professors ordered by Last Name.
(Click a column heading to change ordering)
Last Name | First Name | Department | Last Rated | # of Ratings | Overall Quality | Ease
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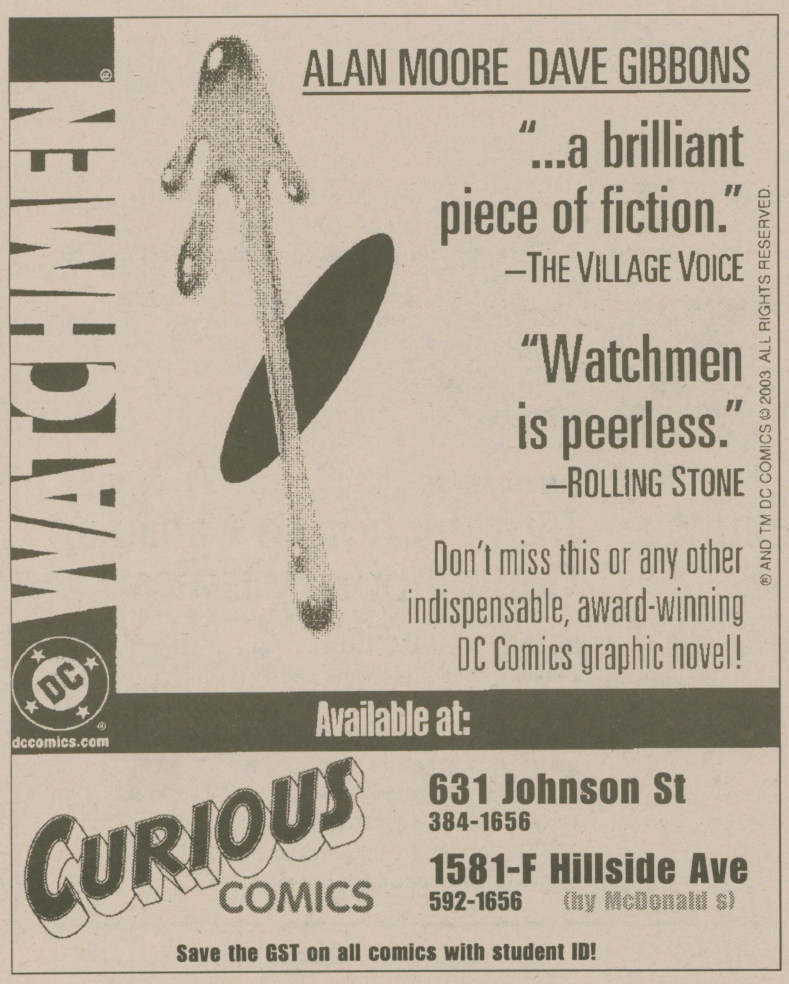
Adams | Michael D. | Engineering | 10/27/03 | 7 | 4.4 | 2.7
Adjin-Tettey | Elizabeth | Law | 8/31/03 | 8 | 3.4 | 3.1
Adu-Febiri | Francis | Social Science | 8/25/03 | 11 | 3.8 | 3.2
Agathoklis | Panajotis | Engineering | 10/21/03 | 5 | 4.1 | 3.6
Agyekum | Eric | Math | 9/13/03 | 4 | 4.8 | 4.0
Alex | Vikky | Fine Arts | 7/21/03 | 1 | 4.5 | 3.0

The low-brow rating system on RateMyProfessors.com has some people reeling and plenty paying attention.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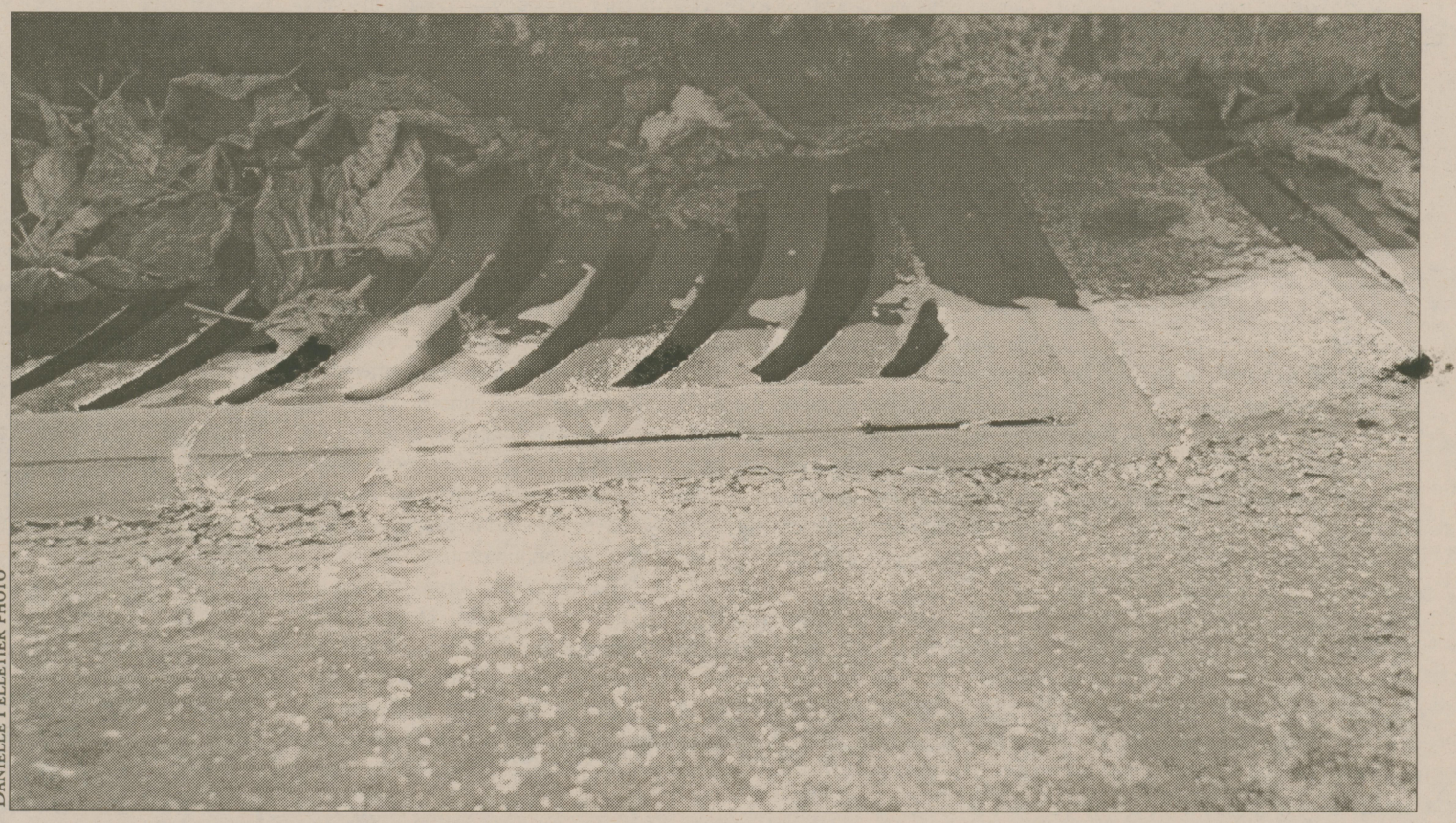
Water water everywhere

Campus drainage issues under microscope following record rainfall

by Jocelyn Beyak



Danielle Pelletier photo

Campus storm drains couldn't keep up with last week's rainstorm.

The University of Victoria needs to work on storm water management. This is evident from the recent deluge of rainfall earlier this month that caused broken rain-pipes, bottomless puddles and raging creeks. According to some researchers on campus, a wider problem is indicated by these fiascos.

Tony Maas is a research assistant who specializes in water management for the POLIS Project, an ecological research group on campus. He said UVic is "sticking very much to the status quo approach of storm water management."

"We all know it rains on Vancouver Island," said Maas. "When it currently rains, there is an unregulated amount of water going into the creeks. The way that storm water is currently managed definitely has impacts on creek ecosystems on campus."

Currently, UVic deals with storm water management on a project-by-project basis. Tony James, Grounds Manager for UVic, said that storm water goes to one of four places: Hobbs Creek, Bowker Creek, Finnerty Creek and a small area that is commonly referred to as the McCoy road drainage.

One solution to water management woes could be having water "retained on site and released slowly instead of all at once," said James. This approach would prevent the negative impact of having sudden storm surges in the creeks. "We are mindful of impacts downstream," he added.

Newer buildings and those currently under construction are built with modern sewer and drainage systems which can be linked up to the old systems.

For example, the new residences currently being built will have sewer and drainage systems that tie into the old system and relieve pressure, said James.

Some old systems have also been replaced. James explained that there are old tiles on campus that trap roots. Many of these tiles have been replaced with plastic pipes or bigger pipes.

But Mass said UVic still has a long way to go before its drainage becomes ecologically sound. "The parking lots are insane to me. I don't understand why there are so many," Mass said. He suggested permeable paving as an alternative, which holds the water and releases it slowly. The pavement is laid down in blocks, and small sections in between the blocks are filled with sand, grass and gravel to hold water. "When it rains it doesn't all rush off. It can serve as a reservoir," said Mass.

Water issues on campus are currently being studied by RCL Consulting, whose report is due at the end of November.

The team working on the report include experts from fields like aquatic ecology, hydrology, vegetative ecology, landscape architecture, engineering and architecture.

"It's the first of its kind on Canadian campuses," said Sarah Webb, the Interim Sustainability Coordinator at UVic. She added the researchers will consider issues raised by Moss.

The report will be presented at an open house when it is released.

First Nations journalist spills the beans on the media

by Jenny Hicks

First Nations issues have become a staple in the mainstream news, but there's still work to be done.

That was the message brought to UVic by David Wiwchar, a journalist who has covered First Nations, environmental and fisheries issues for 20 years. Wiwchar is managing editor and southern region reporter for Ha-Shilth-Sa, Canada's oldest First Nations newspaper.

He spoke on campus on Tuesday about First Nations coverage and the role of First Nations media.

Wiwchar discussed how First Nations news was, for a long time, shunned by the mainstream media.

"Because they weren't getting coverage [First Nations people] decided to make their own," said Wiwchar.

According to Wiwchar, mainstream coverage of First Nations is usually negative and written with an "us versus them" slant. Wiwchar said non-First Nations reporters rarely communicate with the First Nations people.

Consideration for cultural sensitivities is at the forefront of First Nations-produced media. First Nations papers are more about community building. Wiwchar says they are not in the business of dragging people and politicians through the mud.

As a result, Wiwchar has had to sit on some great stories because of sensitivities within First Nations communities. He has also received numerous death threats, most recently from some fish farms he is investigating, but he shrugs them off. "You get used to them," he said.

Mainstream editorial boards are still "the old boys" network, according to Wiwchar, while First Nations reporting has improved. He said First Nations issues are becoming more visible in the media, but not to the level they should be.

"Eventually we won't need First Nations newspapers," said Wiwchar. "The best day for First Nations journalists is when their own papers are no longer needed."

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Poster tells 'annoying white guys' to shut-up

BY PATRICK WHITE

An anonymous poster campaign targeting noisy white males was the subject of much chatter around campus this week.

While Vertigo hosted an anti-racism forum, a group known only as Concerned Students Against Annoying White Guys attracted more attention outside. Their posters had many students' backs up and voices heightened, but nobody knows who the heck they are.

The posters (pictured right) began showing up early last week in a number of campus buildings. Their stated aim is to provide a public service by asking "annoying white males" to "SHUT THE FUCK UP." The poster defines annoying white males as those who talk too often about "dead white guys" and expect to be listened to.

Most of the posters have been removed for failing to get a UVic stamp of approval. But one remains tacked to a wheeled bulletin board in the Student Union Building. It was placed there by the UVic Women's Centre who also asked for feedback. Within a week, white space set aside for written comments around the poster was full.

"This is a positive thing, people are talking about it," said Danielle Gould, events co-coordinator for the Women's Centre. "It implicates white male privilege, but it also implicates the whole campus. We can ask 'Is it humourous? Is it funny? But I would say start watching to see if this is happening."

Not all students agree on the positive image of the poster. "Why do people think reverse-racism is justified," wrote one respondent on the board. "Because that's exactly what this is if it wasn't written by a white guy."

Janine Young, a first-year student who saw the poster, said, "It's a little insulting."

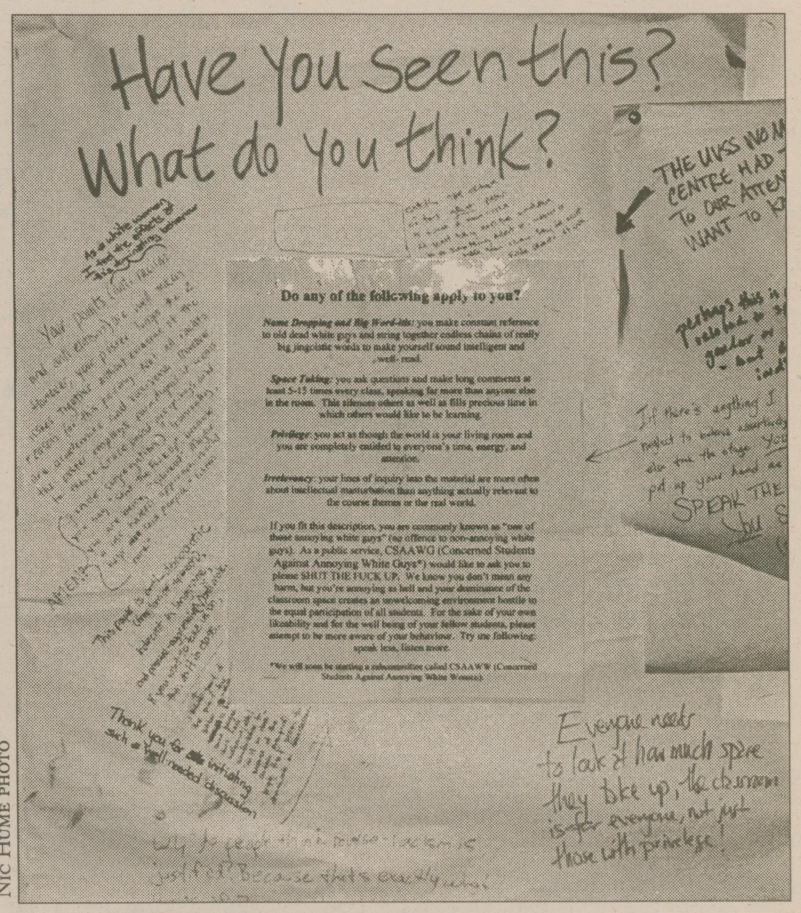
Other poster perusers thought it made a pretty good point. "I don't see anything wrong with it," said history student Carly Cameron.

"It would be better if they took out 'annoying white guy' and put in 'annoying white person' because there's an annoying person in every class," said psychology student Christine Bauser.

Both Bauser and Cameron said they'd heard mention of the poster in countless conversations over the previous week.

The poster gained enough attention to come up at an anti-racism forum held in Vertigo Monday Oct. 28. Women's Studies professor Jo-Anne Lee mentioned during the forum that the amount of attention garnered by the posters was curious considering the racist graffiti that appeared on campus in September went largely unnoticed by the media and received little response from campus organizations and administration.

The anti-racism forum, part of the UVSS Armed with Understanding lecture series, featured talks on combating the use of the Internet as a forum for spreading racial hatred, a panel on hate crimes and human rights, a diversity workshop and a speaker's booth for students to respond by video to the question: "How does racism affect education on our campus?"


Have you seen this?
What do you think?
Do any of the following apply to you?
Name Dropping and Big Word-ish: you make constant reference to old dead white guys and string together endless chains of really big jingoistic words to make yourself sound intelligent and well- read.
Space Taking: you ask questions and make long comments at least 5-15 times every class, speaking for more than anyone else in the room. This silences others as well as fills precious time in which others would like to be learning.
Privilege: you act as though the world is your living room and you are completely entitled to everyone's time, energy, and attention.
Irrelevancy: your lines of inquiry into the material are more often about intellectual masturbation than anything actually relevant to the course themes or the real world.
If you fit this description, you are commonly known as "one of those annoying white guys" (no offence to non-annoying white guys). As a public service, CSAAWG (Concerned Students Against Annoying White Guys*) would like to ask you to please SHUT THE FUCK UP. We know you don't mean any harm, but you're annoying as hell and your dominance of the classroom space creates an unwelcoming environment hostile to the equal participation of all students. For the sake of your own likeability and for the well being of your fellow students, please attempt to be more aware of your behaviour. Try the following: speak less, listen more.
*We will soon be starting a subcommittee called CSAAWW (Concerned Students Against Annoying White Women)
Thank you for the well-rounded discussion
Everyone needs to talk & how much space they take up, the classroom is for everyone, not just those with privilege!

NIC HUME PHOTO

The infamous poster lambasting "annoying white guys" sits in the Student Union Building surrounded by written feedback.

Memorial U to appeal defamation verdict

BY NADYA BELL

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., (CUP) – Memorial University is planning to appeal a Supreme Court verdict that awarded former student Wanda Young $839, 400 in damages.

Young sued the university and two professors, Leslie Bella and William Rowe, for defamation of character and loss of income when they caused the RCMP to investigate her for child sexual abuse.

Young was doing a distance education course with the School of Social Work. She passed in her final paper late, with an un-footnoted appendix containing a first-hand account of a female adult sexually assaulting the children she babysat.

Before asking Young to explain the appendix, a professor gave it to child protection services, assuming Young wrote it because it was not footnoted. However, the professor did not include the rest of the assignment on sexual abuse, which made reference to the appendix as being copied out of an academic text.

Child protection services had difficulty dealing with the case. It was passed between several different social workers, and took over two years to be fully investigated. Information about the case was also spread throughout Young's community, and the RCMP was contacted.

The charges were dropped eventually, but neither Bella nor Rowe apologized for the incident.

Young's lawyer Gillian Butler argued the false charges were equivalent to defamation of character, and affected Young's reputation in her community and her ability to complete her education.

The jury was not asked whether the professors' actions were defamatory, as the judge felt there was no evidence to support this claim.

No punitive damages were awarded, only general damages and loss of income.

On Oct. 2, the jury concluded that the report to child protection was made without reason, causing injury and loss to Young. Half of the settlement was for general damages, the other for past and future loss of income and sick leave.

The university's defence is being fought by local lawyer Wayne Bruce, and dealt with through Memorial's legal department, in consultation with the Consortium of Canadian Universities.

If the university does have to pay a large settlement, it will likely be covered by liability insurance.

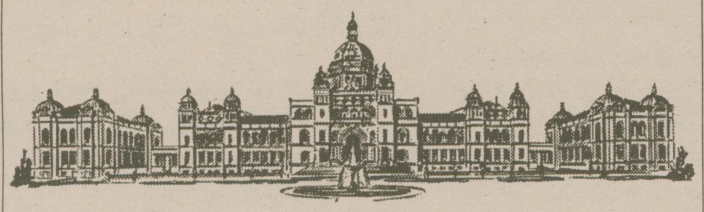
University President Axel Meisen would only say the case has been ongoing for several years, and the university disagrees with the decision and will appeal.

Memorial University will probably not take any disciplinary actions towards either of the professors. Tony Chadwick, president of the faculty association, said neither Bella or Rowe have made any attempt to use the faculty association's services, and the suit is being dealt with on the administration level.

"I have not heard of any attempt by the administration to discipline professor Bella… If the university does decide to do something like that, then I expect she would get in touch with us, and then we would offer all the support we can," said Chadwick.

The case has been ongoing since 1998, and with a full appeal, could continue for several years.

B.C. LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2005



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Forum rebuts 'druggie' image

BY MELANIE TROMP

Losers, stoners and criminals–drug users are scarcely viewed as saints by society in general.

These stereotypes were the subject of a recent forum at the University of Victoria on Oct. 23, where several drug policy experts argued that drug prohibition causes more problems than solutions.

"It's not [the drug prohibition] policy we're fighting here, it's the ideology," said Dave Otto, who spoke on behalf of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP), a U.S.-based group.

As a former corrections officer at one of US's roughest prisons, Otto has seen the "drug war" from both sides of the battlefield.

This gives him a unique view of North America's current situation, he said. He dubbed the metaphorical crusade as out of control and said it dehumanizes both the policy enforcers and drug users.

The seminar addressed the argument that legalizing marijuana would reduce the criminal incentive to dabble in drug dealing. Legislative control would allegedly regulate potency, production, and price–while also allowing the government to collect taxes on what is currently a black market industry.

According to presenters, by prohibiting marijuana use, governments are allowing society to essentially turn their backs on addicts and label them criminals as opposed to viewing them as people with medical problems who need help.

"As long as we criminalize drugs, we see [the users] as nonhuman," said Otto. "If you give them love–if you connect with them on a human level–you have the opportunity to lift them up. At the very least, you won't do any more harm."

In America, tough marijuana possession restrictions often land addicts and dealers in jail instead of rehab. Critics point out this costs taxpayers millions of dollars that could be better spent on treatment programs.

"Victoria is headed in the right direction," said Gordon Harper, a local drug and addiction specialist. "There has never been a day as hopeful as today."

The forum was the first in a series of "hot topic" seminars to be presented by the Victoria Progressive Electors Association this school term.

For more information, contact the UVic Greens Club at greens@uvss.uvic.ca.

Student loan changes draw criticism

Canadian Federation of Students says changes do little for students

BY PATRICK WHITE

Recent changes to B.C. student loan eligibility may help students save more money, but they won't make up for past Liberal policies, according to the Canadian Federation of Students.

Under the old guidelines, the first $600 a student earned was exempt, after which 80 per cent of their earnings were deduced from student loan eligibility. With the new guidelines announced Oct. 21, students will be able to earn $1700 without it affecting their loan eligibility, but beyond that 100% will be deducted.

The eligibility does not increase the maximum allowable student loan of $9,350, an amount that is $3,314 lower than the student budget recommended by UVic Student Awards & Financial Aid.

Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond said in a press release, "By allowing them to earn more while they study we're increasing financial resources for students. The end result is more financial flexibility for students, and more money in their pockets."

Summer McFadyen, B.C. chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students, said the changes come as little reprieve to cash-strapped students. "The provincial government got rid of 11,000 student jobs and doubled tuition fees, so this is really no consolation," she said. "This allows students to save $1100 more than they used to be able to, but tuition has gone up $1700."

At the same time, the minimum wage was decreased by two dollars to six dollars per hour, a wage at which it would require 500 hours of work to pay for average provincial tuition fees.

According to Karen McDonald, communications director for Bond's ministry, the 100% deduction from student loan eligibility for income over $1700 won't affect many students. "It's hard to take a full class load and earn over $1700, right?"

McDonald admits that the new guidelines were not really the provincial government's idea:"In February the federal government changed to this new criteria. We acknowledged that this was a good idea and a good thing for students."

McFadyen said the provincial government's lack of initiative is another example of their going back on election promises. "In the run-up to the election, the Liberals promised to reduce tuition fees by 5% and make access to post-secondary a high priority, so this is really nothing."

SARAH PETRESCU PHOTO

Summer McFadyen, B.C. chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, sees no relief for students in recent changes to provincial student loan eligibility.

Klein gives Harris the Stockwell touch

Endorsement may be kiss of death for former Ontario Premier's leadership bid

BY RICHARD WARNICA

If history repeats itself, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein will have cursed his second leadership candidate for a new political party in three years.

Klein spoke out last week about the potential candidacy of former Ontario Premier Mike Harris for the leadership of the nascent Conservative Party of Canada.

"I think that [Mike Harris] has the street smarts, the political attitude, the political instinct that is necessary to lead the party. I just like his style." Klein told the *Toronto Star* on Oct. 17.

The blessing of one of Canada's most popular right-wing politicians will no doubt give Harris's candidacy an edge.

However, both conservative voters and the man called the father of Ontario's "common sense revolution" may have reason to question the value of Klein's support.

This is not the first time Klein has endorsed a candidate to lead a party claiming to unite the nation's small "c" conservatives.

In the spring of 2000 Klein openly supported former Alberta Treasurer Stockwell Day for the leadership of the then newly formed Canadian Ailiance party.

"Fundamentally, he is a good, decent person. I know when he says he will do something, he will do it. He is a man of action. His fiscal policies are sound and the way he handled the Alberta treasury was sound," Klein said of Day.

Thanks to his huge popularity in Alberta, due in no small part to Klein's endorsement, Day won the leadership of the new party later that summer.

He then presided over what many political pundits consider to be one of the most disastrous stints as opposition leader in the history of Canadian politics.

Day's leadership was so bad that thirteen members of his own caucus abandoned the party to sit as independents, rejoining only after Day had stepped down.

As a result of Day's incompetence, Klein made an abrupt reversal of his earlier support.

By late 2001 the kindest thing the Alberta Premier had to say, about the man he once named to four senior cabinet posts in his own government, was that "when a sickness or injury becomes terminal, that's the time you cut bait".

Klein went on to say that Day's media skills lacked "Journalism 101" ability, and, that he should "stop holding news conferences," these comments coming less then one year after he called Day the advocate for the "common sense of the common people" when introducing him at the Alliance leadership rally.

Having picked, then abandoned, the leader who almost killed the Canadian Alliance party, it would seem that Klein's support for Harris should be taken warily.

It remains to be seen whether conservative voters will trust Klein's opinion a second time.

Rally protests U.S. occupation

Hundreds show up at Centennial Square to show support for ending American involvement in Iraq

BY KARISSA GRAHAM

Activists in Victoria gathered in Centennial Square on Saturday, Oct. 25 to demand an end to the American occupation of Iraq.

The rally coincided with similar protests held across North America, the largest of which took place in Washington, D.C.

In Victoria, a few hundred people met to continue the anti-war movement that began last spring during the war on Iraq, declaring that they would not stop until the U.S. pulled out of Iraq.

Mamdoh Ashir backed up these sentiments in a speech, declaring "in the name of Allah we will liberate our land from American occupation." Ashir, who was born and raised in Iraq, fled to Canada to escape the repressive Hussein regime.

Ashir stated that the Iraqi people did not bring Hussein to power and that the American administration had supported Hussein against both Iran and Kuwait. He asked that Iraq be permitted to establish its own government, without interference. "How can a democracy come with guns and tanks?" he said. "We don't want cowboy freedom."

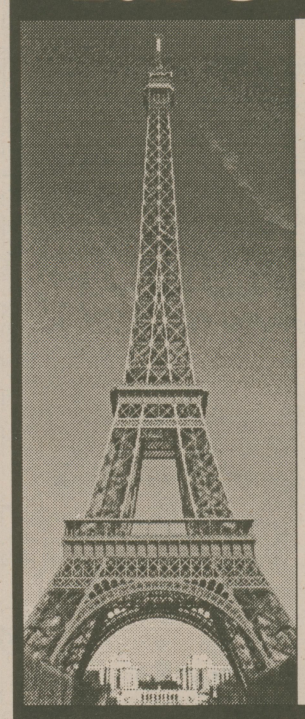
Stacey Chappel, director of the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG), spoke to the crowd on the issue of American corporate growth in Iraq. She cited companies such as Bechtel, Haliburton, MCI, Motorola, and DynCorp as taking advantage of Iraq's current political situation. "The reconstruction proposed is not one to aid the Iraqi people, or even Iraqi business," Chappel said.

Chappel went on to protest the growth of corporations in Iraq before issues such as clean water and food were dealt with, calling it "the complete wholesale privatization of a country in one go."

"We will keep on kicking and screaming for economic justice in Iraq," she added.

The crowd was responsive to both speakers, joining Ashir in chanting "No to U.S.A." and cheering Chappel on.

The meeting ended in a march from Government Street to Douglas Street.



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EDITORIAL

What the hell happened to Halloween?

An explanation, in three parts

All Hallows Eve–free candy, costumes and fireworks. A night when our city's youth get up to all kinds of unpleasant activities: tipping trash cans, lighting pumpkins, soaping windows–in short, extortion.

Oh yes, extortion. Every year on this one night, we allow, nay, encourage our sons and daughters to engage in this highly illegal activity. They go up to a stranger's house, knock on their door and proceed to threaten them with property damage unless compensated with sugary snacks. "Trick or Treat."

How different is this from the classic mobster "insurance" plan? "Fire happens you know. Things break."

Of course, unless you have uncanny aim, no one's going to die from an egg, but the basic principle is the same.

So parents be warned, make sure you're aware of the downward spiral of felony you may be sending your children into. And, more importantly, for those staying at home to answer the door, make sure you have enough candy. You wouldn't want to run out before the kids who don't even dress up come around.

Ah, Halloween. The time when everyone can indulge his or her inner slut. Or that's what it seems like.

This seemingly innocuous holiday used to be a time for frolicking kiddies, friendly ghouls, and sweet, sweet candy. Now it appears to be the day of the year when everyone–most notably young, svelte hoochie bitches–can indulge their love of dressing up like tasteless scantily-clad ho's.

Now, now: "ho" is a judgment word. It implies young ladies who like to dress provocatively are sexually promiscuous. But we use it merely to describe a way of dressing that could be called tacky and near naked at best.

Since when has Halloween become an opportunity to show off your assets and look like a low-rent call-girl? It is a widespread phenomenon. Girls don red tube-tops and miniskirts, crimson vinyl knee-high boots and a pair of plastic horns, then declare, "Hee-hee! I'm, like, a devil!"

This abuse of a holiday for tartly attire is troubling. It's sad that people need to use Halloween as a time to dress like that because they can't express their sexuality in more subtle, healthy and everyday ways during the rest of the year–Tuesdays and Sundays, not just on Oct. 31.

Be honest with yourself. Why do you need to be a "naughty nurse" or a "naughty cowgirl"? It is more honourable to wear dirty overalls rather than a denim mini if you wanna be a cowpoke this year. If you're going for the nurse costume, don the sensible white shoes; you never see any RN's teetering around the ER in stiletto boots.

Ah, Samhain. When the hottest selling costume this year is the "Billy Bob" mangled yellow teeth, in homage to hicks and inbreds everywhere. White trash attire is a hot second, pimps and ho's running a close third. Let's ask ourselves and admit it, most of us are privileged, middle-class smartypants–why fixate on the poor and marginalized? Is dressing up like someone in poverty a way of exorcizing our own guilt?

Halloween used to be about what scared us. If our worst fears today involve slumming it with Billy Bob, then maybe we need to rethink our anxieties.

So leave your mullet wig at home. If anything, we should be dressing up-town. Think Bay Street, not Esquimalt. Think Paul Martin, Gordon Campbell or hell, even Victoria mayor Alan Lowe. These are the people we should be worried about, not Billy Bob.

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Don't like what you read?

Write us, or write for us: martlet@uvic.ca

LETTERS

Pro-Choice/Pro-Life debate

I am writing in response to Sarah Petrescu's "Body Right: Can pro-lifers be feminist?" article in last week's issue.

I am deeply disappointed in the complete disregard for why women choose to have abortions. Finances aside, there are numerous other reasons why the Pro-Choice movement is a necessity for many women worldwide. This article made no attempt to acknowledge cultural and personal reasons for why abortions are sometimes the only route of sustaining personal communities.

If the government so made the attempt to provide women financial support to raise their children, that does very little for women who would be segregated from their families and cultural communities. This article also negates woman's agency over her body, and does nothing to challenge Pro-Life activists advocating for institutional powers to govern women's bodies.

To clarify, my personal definition of Pro-Choice states exactly that: women have a choice to continue in pregnancy, or they have the choice to abort. Pro-Choice activists provide women that space to make their choice, not their government, families, lovers, rapists etc., etc., etc.

Rubina Sidhu

Marne defends Punk decision

I am responding to your October 23 article "SUB manager dumps punk show." First, I would like to make it clear that the decision to cancel the Vertigo booking was not about punk music. We decided to cancel the booking because we discovered it was a free all ages live music event being heavily promoted downtown with woefully inadequate security plans.

The last all ages gig held in the SUB was on March 10, 2000. There has not been one since because of the trouble we have experienced with these types of shows.

I agree with Professor Antliff that the organizers of the cancelled event are responsible and not drunken louts. But Antliff is naive to think that the show would attract a strictly drunken-lout-free crowd or that the planned three security volunteers could handle it if a couple dozen louts did show up.

Antliff may also be surprised to learn that when alcohol is not served at an event that does not mean it will be trouble free or violence free. In our experience, when alcohol is not served, revelers sometimes consume alcohol and/or drugs before the event. Licensed events are more predictable and less trouble because alcohol is served out in the open by experienced bar staff, rather that a mickey of Crown Royal quickly chugged out of sight.

UVSS members have paid for the SUB through fees and subsidize its operations, including paying over $60,000 for liability insurance. As SUB management, we have a responsibility to our members to protect that investment.

We found out about the true nature of the event, that it was being promoted off campus and did not have adequate security only a week before it was scheduled to occur. Unfortunately, a week simply is not enough time to address and mitigate the risk these types of events present.

However, the UVSS does have under-age members. That is why we have agreed to an all-ages Hot Hot Heat show on November 15 in the Michele Pujol Room. That show will have 20 professional security staff and we are working with student housing and Campus Security to ensure that past problems do not reoccur.

On the question of the use of Vertigo by student groups, I point to the successful event the Helping Hands club held with Johnny Action Figure as the headline band last March.

Marne Jensen is the general manager of the Student Union building

What? ...A complimentary letter

Dear Editor,

Recently I spent a couple of weekends in Victoria while my son took a National Life Guard course at Saanich Commonwealth Place.

What a treat to get the opportunity to read *the Martlet*! I really appreciated your view of Izzy Asper's media regime and Ralph Klein, etc.. Also, I applaud how you deal with women's and disabled people's issues. It is nice to read a view that never seems to be represented in the mainstream area.

In the 1980s, I worked as a copy editor for The Uniter at the University of Winnipeg. It opened my mind to participating (when I can) as an activist in the world. I learned that I don't have to keep my mouth shut (and in fact have the responsibility not to) when societal injustices occur. We regularly challenged the university administration and student government.

Recently, at Star Books on Salt Spring Island, I read a quote by author Alice Walker. "Activism is my rent for living on this planet," she wrote. Long live the student press!

Tanya Lester
Salt Spring Island

Write scathing letters to
oped@martlet.ca

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Martlet is published every Thursday.

Killing animals does not save them

High demand for live animals, skins, parts and trophies in the U.S. will generate profits

BY NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE

Next time you visit the U.S., you may see giant pandas at zoos, elephant ivory, and crocodile or leopard skins through the windows of retail outlets.

The Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed changes to their federal Endangered Species Act to allow circuses, the pet industry, zoos and trophy hunting operations to kill, capture and import endangered animals from other countries. However, animals near extinction in the U.S. would be exempt from such fates.

Yes, George Bush, the world's most famous idiot savant (minus the savant), is again trying to pass legislation that, prior to his administration, would have only existed in badly written fiction.

Still unable to link terrorism to undiscovered weapons of mass destruction, the president of the most powerful and wealthy nation of the world has selected foreign, endangered animals to torment.

Officials with the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service vehemently defend their proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act, first signed by President Nixon in 1973. They say that the high demand for live animals, skins, parts and trophies in the U.S. will generate profits that would allow poor nations to pay for conservation of the remaining animals and their habitats.

And, of course, only countries who pledge to spend money on conservation practices will be allowed to kill or exploit their animals in order to save them from extinction.

Anyone who believes that developing nations will actually honour these promises, and that a high demand for endangered species won't dramatically increase poaching in poor countries–please raise your trunk.

Lobbying by way of "donations" to the Republican Party, the Safari Club International and other special-interest groups are directly behind this absurd shift in conservation policy. My only guess why these amendments were proposed was to fill the pockets of rich and powerful Americans–you know, those with their tongues in Bush's ear.

Sadly, it seems that "profit at all cost" capitalism is again in control of policy making–as if red, white and blue greed had ever relinquished its legislative hold.

If the Republicans were really keen on protecting foreign animals from extinction, wouldn't they simply make the penalties stiffer for U.S. citizens who treat endangered species as a trade commodity? Wouldn't they help fund poorer countries to help ensure the survival of these animals and impose economic sanctions against countries that kill or exploit them?

Advocating the hunt and capture of near-extinct animals in order to save them just seems too ludicrous to be true.

Perhaps the proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act is nothing more than a diabolical charade intended to distract the American citizens from the 10,000 civilians the U.S. military has liberated from the burden of life in Iraq.

But more likely, Bush and his Republican cronies are simply willing to be directly responsible for encouraging the extinction of helpless animals.

Well, I suppose when money talks, it doesn't matter if animals walk.

Gay adventures in Campbell River

BY ROBERT EASTON

It seemed like I only had two kinds of conversations when I went home to Campbell River this past Thanksgiving.

"Hey so how are you, anyway? Where are you living? What are you up to?" to which I responded with my equally uninteresting, "*Good*! Still in Vic, finishing off the last electives in my degree…"

Most of you can probably fill in the rest because you've avoided the exact same conversation on many occasions. However, this year presented me with a new scenario. Being one of only two fully *out* homo's in my grad class of nearly 300, I have come to notice how people are beginning to look at me in a very different way.

Now, I should probably let you in on what the second conversation was about, since I'm sure you're dying to hear about it. Equally repetitive as the first yet substantially more interesting, I was mystified at how often I actually ran into exactly the following scenario:

"So yer uh…totally out about stuff now eh?" someone would start to me.

"About what? Being gay?"

"Yeah… I mean uh…" they'd stumble, "I just think it's cool you can be like that an' stuff…You know."

"Yeah, it's not really a big deal unless someone makes it one."

"Oh, cause you know I'm totally cool with it, eh?" they'd backtrack, seeing the hole they might be digging for themselves.

"I mean, it's all good, even though it probably wasn't as okay for you as it was for uh…" they'd trail off into uncomfortable silence. "So, are your parents okay with it?"

"Yeah…In fact, my boyfriend is sleeping at my parents' house right now. He came home with me for Thanksgiving."

"Oh really! Wow, that's cool. So your parents know about it?"

"Well, if he is sleeping in the same bed as me tonight, I think they are…" I'd finish off, trying not to sound too condescending.

I should also note that this exchange took place entirely with straight guys, which inevitably included an affirmation of their own heterosexuality.

These exchanges revealed a few interesting points about what how things now work in the world.

Comparing my life now in Victoria to growing up Campbell River, one would think that going back to the Riv, still full of bigots and people who are afraid of difference, would present me with a dramatically less open conversation. However, since high school, things have changed. Instead of hatred, it was fascination with difference since people have grown up.

If anything, my impatience over having the same repeated conversation revealed my own intolerance for those who dwell on a subject that I stopped worrying about three years ago when I came out.

In Victoria, my boyfriend and I can walk down the street as part of the couple mosaic seen daily. We can go to our preferred watering holes and people will hardly bat an eye, while my friends from back in the Riv are catching up since people like us city folk are a little less common.

Catch-22 of cross-border drug trade

'I'd be lying if I said it was my morals that kept me out of the business'

BY SHAUN BOWMAN

We at UVic have been pretty slam-happy with the Liberal government's actions, but here is a little story about how the government's inaction could end up hitting us hard–in the kidneys, skin, lungs and eyes.

Prescription drugs in Canada are expensive, but not nearly as expensive as they are in the United States. However, this may soon change.

I'm an engineering student at UVic. A couple of years ago a friend and I looked very seriously at opening an Internet-based online pharmacy. The plan: to sell non-narcotic prescription drugs to American's, while acting as a marketing company for an existing Canadian pharmacy.

We got quite far with the plan, finding a way to get Canadian doctors to sign our American orders, securing a Vancouver supplier, and pricing drugs. But in the end, we heard too much negative press in the U.S. media about mail-order Canadian drugs, so we decided to drop the project–fearing our business would soon be made illegal.

How wrong we were. It appears Canadian drug imports to the U.S.A. won't stop any time soon.

So why did we decide to circle the troops? Well, because the longer this little racket is legal, the more Canadians will suffer. Canadian prescription drugs are cheap because our government, as the sole importer, represents one huge buyer. It happily flexes its monopoly muscles on the U.S. producers to import drugs at bulk cost. A few business-minded folk take this price difference and pass on the savings to the American public.

This little border trick, while legal, is a blatantly inappropriate use of the benefits of monopoly power. Understandably, the Pfizer's and Merck's of the U.S. drug industry want this stopped. Their anger was passed onto the American Government and left Congress with quite the Catch-22.

How do they protect American drug companies without angering their citizens by banning cheap drug imports? In what I'd call a stroke of economic and political genius, they voted 324 to 101 not to ban Canadian drug imports. Instead, they made it much easier for Americans to get them! Clearly the American public is satisfied, but how did the House's vote, late last July, help the drug companies?

The U.S. government knows very well how the increase in American demand will affect the Canadian drug distributor's market price. Any economics undergrad can tell you an increase in demand will cause an increase in base cost for the consumer. U.S. politicians knew that our drug monopoly won't work if lots of Americans start competing for Canada's comparatively small supply of subsidized drugs. Those crafty Americans have forced our government to be the bad guys.

What started with a few Canadians making some big easy bucks will quickly hurt all Canadians who need cheap prescription drugs. So what are we poor Canucks to do? We will have to ban re-export of American origin drugs. We will no doubt be blasted all day on CNN for robbing poor grandma of her meds and maybe spark a NAFTA debate on our drug monopoly.

I'd be lying if I said it was my morals that kept me out of the business. I'm glad I didn't do it. Two years ago, I never thought the Canadian government would let this business get so out of control. My personal feelings are that drugs, unlike most goods, shouldn't be sold in a free-market. I believe in our public healthcare because in the U.S. free-market, the Pfizer's can charge any amount they please, especially if the customer's alternative is illness or death. Now I find myself asking the government to shut down a business I was nearly a part of.

All God's Creatures

STENOGRAPHER: NORMAN ED BASKERVILLE
SKETCH ARTIST: GRAHAM STARK

NO.

Robby's Confession

"It started with an idea for a job Smithy had about six weeks back. We'd been looking for something clean for a while, but you know, with unemployment so high, places aren't willing to forgive and forget your record. Not when they got a hundred other straight applicants waiting. It's the system, man. I was supposed to be 'habilitated.

Smithy and I were just hanging in our apartment and he reads about the Furries in some magazine. Said it was the stupidest thing he'd ever heard people do voluntarily.

'Fuckin' grown-ups dressing in animal costumes,' he told me. 'See Robby, just when you start thinking you're a sick fuck, you read about accountants and lawyers who need to put on panda and rabbit suits before they can socialize.'

Hey Sergeant, mind if I have some of that water there? Thanks, I always get thirsty when I'm telling a story. People say I'm a bit of a rambler.

I asked him what they do when they socialise, started thinking I could go for a long-legged woman in an ostrich suit. Feathers could feel kinda nice, you know?

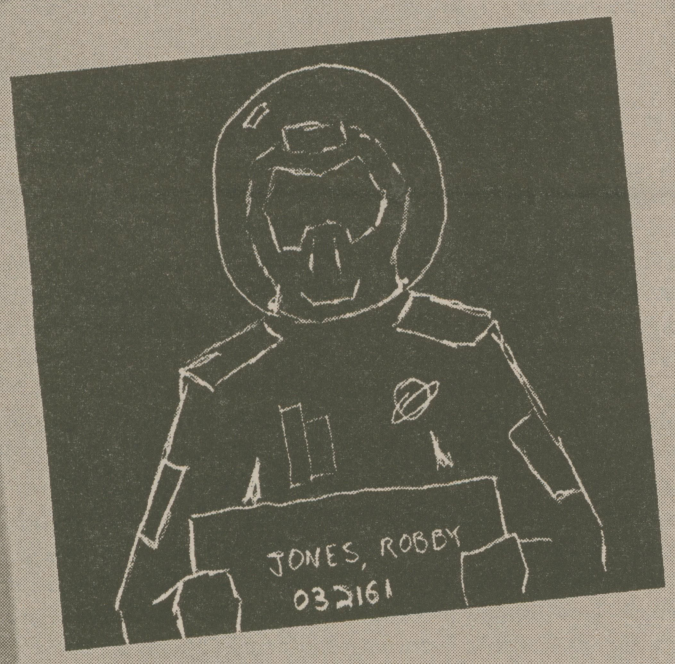
Anyway, he tells me they get together for tea parties, dances, picnics...real dumb stuff mostly. 'Sometimes these freaks,' Smithy says, 'even have animal farm parties...orgies.'

So we start talking how easy it'd be to roll these shmucks. Go in there with a couple of pieces and take 'em for whatever they got. But it was talk, the same kinda stuff we always think up.

Just talk, until we see the ad in the classifieds a few weeks later announcing the Adult Furrie Festival up at the Kearns Lake cabins.

Sergeant, you gotta light? I used up my last match...thanks. No, my leg's okay. That paramedic bandaged me up good. You know you're a good guy for a cop.

As I was saying, Smithy and I started talking about actually doing it. Making plans for a car to get us out there, ordering the .45's through our source, looking over road maps—the usual preps. I think it was when he got Mandy into the game that things went wrong..."



Smithy's Confession

"I don't care what you say Robby said. I know all about your little tricks.

I don't have to say a thing till my lawyer gets here. Besides, that little jack-off Robby spews more shit when he's trying to tell the truth than when he's open-faced lying. If only I had gone at the job with just Mandy, I'd be home drinking beer and eating take-out from the Golden Dragon—whoa there, you almost had me going. Just wait for my lawyer.

A cup of soup? Yeah, I'll have some soup, but that doesn't mean I'm going to be co-operative. I don't betray confidence like Robby.

I've been friends with that slouching, head-in-the-sky motherfucker since I was seven years old. He's like a brother to me—a real stupid brother. Robby said what?

Yeah, I guess he would say it was my fault. Retard is so busy hearing himself talk his ears don't relay anything else to his brain. Did you see the fucking costumes? I told him to get animal costumes, like those Furries wear, and the moron gets himself a space suit and a goddamn purple dragon costume for me! I must've explained the low down on the Furrie phenomena at least five times.

'Anthropomorphic animal type costumes,' I said. 'You know, with fur and feathers.' In hindsight, I shouldn't have said anthropomorphic, big word like that probably tied his neurons in knots.

Is this chicken noodle? Beef broth, huh. Not half bad.

At least Mandy had the sense to dress-up like a cat, one of her old stripping costumes. Real tight in all the right places. If she hadn't covered for us at the cabin, telling the woman at the door we were novice Furries, the whole thing would've been screwed from the get go. Maybe that would've been for the best...hey there now, I'm not saying another word."

Mandy's Confession

"Let me see that. So basically it says here, that because I was unarmed, if I help you incriminate Smithy and Robby, my charges will be reduced. Does that mean no time served? Guaranteed in writing? Okay. What do you want to know?

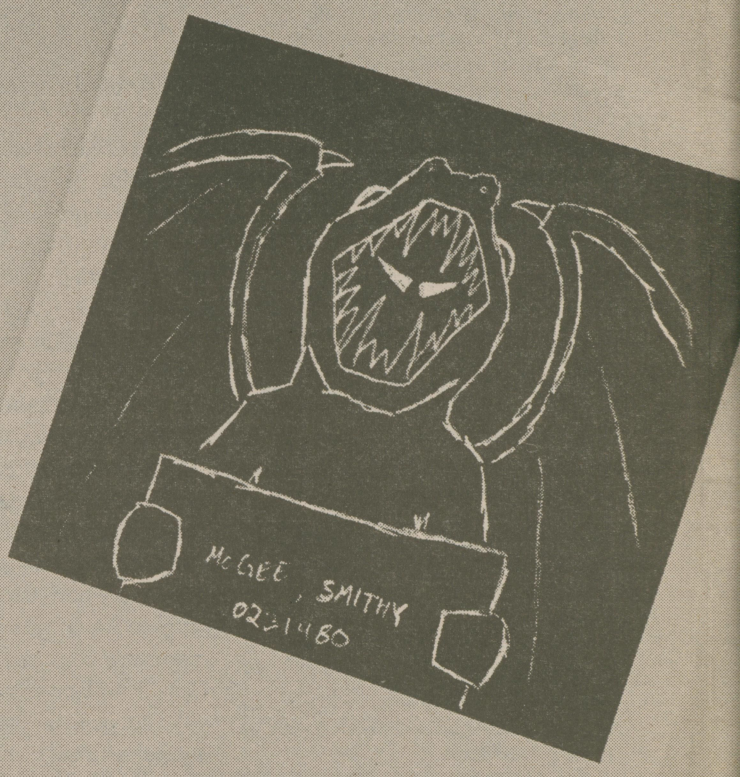
Smithy? Yeah he stole the van from his neighbour. I couldn't believe those two, in the front seat dressed in full costume. I had mine in a duffle. They hadn't even the sense to wait till we were up there to change. For all I knew, they'd worn them to their corner store to buy cigarettes before they came to get me. I'd already met with the Furrie organizer and paid the admittance fee. 'Lack of foresight stings the eyes of the simpleminded,' my grandmother used to say.

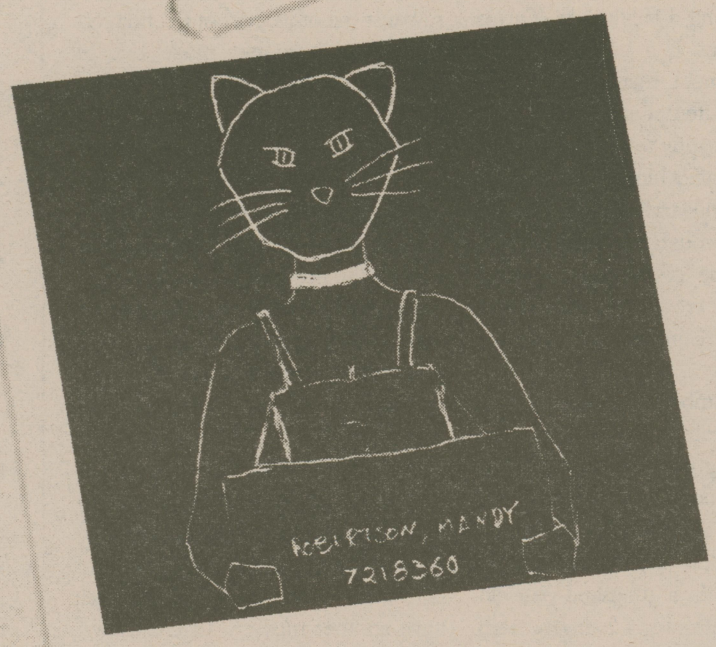
If my rent wasn't two months behind, I'd have waved those two knob-jockeys away right then, but it did seem like easy money. Steal a couple of those Furries' cars, their jewellery, whatever cash they have—stake out the premises, analyze the danger, go inside, hold them up, get out, burn our costumes, take the cars to our buyer and...done."

Robby

"Problem was I'd never been to no orgy before. Never even had a threesome. Not that I hadn't tried to get Clara—that's my ex—to go for it.

We get to the cabin, more like a log house, really, and I got this real cool spaceman suit on—it had a bubble over the head and





everything. Well, this real fine looking poodle-woman opens the door. She got leotards on and hair all curled up in a mop on the top of her head, and this cute little fluffy, wagging tail.

We'd planned to avoid using violence. Go inside before we pulled out the guns. So I politely say hello and walk in. She starts growling! And I don't mean in a sexy way, I mean like a real yappin' little dog.

And the people inside were even worse. On the sofa a monkey-woman was kissing a goat-man, three pigs were squealing together on the carpet, on a swinging wicker chair a giraffe rode a hamster-man…and more then 20 animal-people were piled in the kitchen. It was crazy man! Tabs of ecstasy and lines of coke on every table and countertop.

And they weren't all attractive people, Sergeant. One couple must've been in their sixties. It was messed up! For probably half a minute I'd forgotten I was there to rob these people. I just looked around at the weirdos and smelled the sex."

Smithy

"I never even considered it. I don't know what Robby's been telling you, but it's all crap.

We walk in there, and I can't see much through the eyes of my dragon suit, but the place is real fancy. Got track-lighting, teak furniture, even Persian carpets.

Suddenly, across to the far side of the room I see an ugly woman in a deer suit sucking off a guy dressed like a gorilla. All their costumes must have had Velcro or zip-away crotches, 'cause none of them got undressed for the orgy.

It was unbelievable. I was surrounded by the mingling of the species. And they were all in character: a goat baaaed, a horse nayed, a raccoon swiped her paw at some baboon's blue ass.

I look over to Mandy and she doesn't even seem to care. Isn't even looking, her eyes fixed on me waiting for the go. Robby, now he's in shock, in love, or he just wants in—the guy's all but jacking off. So I shout, 'Hey, get a good look and use it later.'

That's when the gun fired."

Mandy

"I assumed it was Smithy's gun. Last I saw of Robby the space jerk, he was getting worked on by that dumb dog who let us in. She's rubbing her furry crotch against his leg, pawing at his groin and growling like she's in heat. It was the funniest thing I'd ever seen. No one could call me a prude, but these people took kink to a whole new level.

Soon as I heard Robby scream, I knew where the shot had come from. The humping poodle had pawed at his cock and had somehow pulled the trigger. Well, the pistol just shot blanks, but the blast was enough to do damage to Robby's groin.

We plan a simple gun and run and he shoots himself. I look at Smithy and the big purple dragon's standing there stunned. Robby's screaming, the poodle's running away—at that point we should have just come here and confessed."

Smithy

"The A-Hole has his gun go off in his pants. He's dancing around, holding his leg like a little girl. And the anthropomorphic freaks are still acting like animals! Frightened fuckin' animals. Scurrying to shelter under the kitchen table, behind the sofa, in the closet—thought I was on Pluto or something. Mandy was smart, she gets Robby a bag of peas out of the freezer and he shoves them down his pants.

I yell, 'If you're done fucking around, maybe we can get on with it.' And then this guy in a coyote costume, with his snout buried in some dove's tits, tells me not to break character.

Took me a minute to realize it, but the freaks thought the gun going off was just us playing out our roles.

No Sergeant, I never even pulled out my pistol."

Robby

"Now I've been divorced for a year'n a half, and most of that time was spent in jail. I hadn't had the kinda attention that poodle woman was giving me for ages, and I forgot about the pistol down my pants. I've been shot twice before with real bullets, so I could handle a blank going off.

Not that I'm saying it didn't hurt, Sergeant—burned like fire, and blood stained the front of my spacesuit.

I went and got a frozen bag from the fridge, put it on the wound, bit my lip and looked across to Smithy. I think he thought one of the Furries had shot at 'em 'cause without giving any signal to Mandy and me, he pulls out his .45 and starts waving it around.

Now these animal people are scattering all over trying to find a hiding place. And Smithy starts yelling at 'em, saying they should stay calm, give us their jewellery and money.

About then, the poodle woman comes back—wagging her tail and whimpering up at me. I honestly thought she was gonna piss on my leg."

Mandy

"I don't know what Smithy was thinking. He'd scared those idiots by bringing out his gun and then he expected them to offer up their cash and jewellery—did he think their pig and gorilla suits came with pockets for wallets and coin purses?

Smithy and Robby didn't have a clue what to do next. If I hadn't of been there they probably would've started kicking at the poor freaks.

No Sergeant, they didn't assault anyone. Not that I saw, anyway.

I decided the best thing was to get the moron boys out of there. So I went into the bedroom where I expected to find the animal people's street clothes, purses and stuff. It was all there on the bed: coats, bags…and a pink panther making it with a shrew-woman.

Suppose they were too busy going at it to have heard Robby's gun go off. Of course, as soon as I started loading my duffel with valuables, the panther sat up and asked what I was doing.

Well, you know what happened next."

Robby

"Smithy and me'll catch a lot of flack from the other inmates if we go back to jail. Arrested by a pink panther! Ah-uh, I don't think I'm ready for life on the outside, anyway. Too demanding.

Hey, you think I could make a call? That poodle-woman gave me her number."

Smithy

"A fuckin' cop! I couldn't believe my luck: we plan the perfect crime and one of your guys is staking out the Furrie drug ring.

Tell me, is this guy going to get reprimanded for participating in an orgy? Or do you guys get overtime for stuff like that?"

Texas Chainsaw film massacred

BY PATRICK WHITE

To the producers of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*:

Hello. How are things in Hollywood? The weather here in Victoria is pretty wet these days.

In the summer I work as a logger. The job requires me to work with chainsaws, a fine and noble tool of the woods.

Last week I saw your new movie, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. I feel my job gives me a special insight into the film because the antagonist takes some satisfaction in wielding a saw just like myself. However, I have a few concerns about how the burly mutant-faced fellow in the movie uses his saw. His technique is unsafe and, in some cases, impossible.

First off, the antagonist, whom I'll call Lumberjack, runs around and actually chases his victims while carrying a saw. Lumberjack's saw looks like an older domestic model, probably weighing 30 pounds or more. There's no way he should have been able to keep up with the young, fit-looking twenty-somethings he pursued. Besides, running with a saw is just plain dangerous. Fallers have to do it every now and then, but it is always preferable to drop the saw before escaping a falling tree. This is because a saw is a heavy, cumbersome implement that will seriously impede any attempt at speed.

I was very happy to see Lumberjack trip, fall and inflict himself with a nasty leg wound while trying to run with his idling saw through a barbwire fence. Perhaps some of the many young people in the crowd will learn something from Lumberjack's careless example.

Second, Lumberjack's sawing technique is unrealistic. At one point he slices a young man's leg in two with one quick swoop of the saw. A power saw does not slice like a knife through butter regardless of whether the item being sawed is a thousand-year-old cedar or a man's leg. Chainsaw teeth are designed to chisel, not slice. Lumberjack would have to spend considerable time on the young man's leg before making a clean cut. He would have to push the teeth into the flesh until the engine began to bog down. Then he would have to ease off pressure and let the revs build back up before forcing the teeth down again. His victim would probably have gotten away by the time Lumberjack progressed a few inches. A saw makes sawdust out of wood, but I'm not certain what it would make out of human flesh aside from a great deal of mess.

I don't mean to knock the entire movie. The parts where Lumberjack's saw quit on him were pure cinematic genius. Saws always seem to quit when you need them most. As he pulled the cord to trying to get the saw running again I could imagine myself in the bush, wet and miserable, cursing to beat Hell over my crummy saw.

I've read that movie productions sometimes employ accent coaches to help stars remain in a certain vernacular, and martial arts experts to ensure fight scenes look authentic. If you ever have another movie with chainsaws, I'd like to offer my services as a chainsaw coach. I would ensure authentic cutting and safe handling. This is just something for you to consider.

Regards,
Patrick White

Film critic Roger Ebert gave the movie zero stars. Less than 30 films have gotten this rating in the past 18 years.

Smugglers' Cove
NEIGHBOURHOOD
PUB
Happy Hallowe'en, Friday, October 31
• Join our Hallowe'en Party with costumes, prizes, ghoulish drink specials and fireworks.
• Monday – Wing Night – 3pm onwards
• Sunday – Buffet Brunch 11 – 2pm $9.95
Opening Soon – Smuggler's Cove Pub Liquor Store in the Cadboro Bay Village Mall
Smuggler's Cove Pub
2581 Penrhyn Street 477-2688
Sunday: 11am – 12pm
Monday to Saturday: 11:30am – 11:30pm
Cold Beer & Wine off-sales 7 days a week

A city of ghostly hot spots

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

Ghost Stories and Mysterious Creatures of B.C.
Barbara Smith
Lone Pine Publishing

GRAHAM STARK PHOTO

If you're having trouble sleeping at night, it's not because of daylight savings. Those strange noises you hear? It's definitely not mice.

It might have something to do with the fact that you live in Victoria, the most haunted city in British Columbia. Or at least that's what *Ghost Stories and Mysterious Creatures of B.C.* may lead you to believe.

The stories, tales of gold rush murders, eerie apparitions, and frequent poltergeist activities, hail from the far and wild of B.C. This book promises to offer a full provincial spectrum on all things ghostly. But somehow, almost a quarter of the stories take place in the dark corners of Greater Victoria.

Apparently, we live in an extraordinarily possessed place.

For ghost hunters or Halloween spooksters, one of the most popular sights in the city is the Maritime Museum of B.C. The building, set in Bastion Square, was built on top of Victoria's former courthouse and jail in 1889. During this time, public executions were held in front of this building and bodies were buried beneath the paving stones.

"The most present and easily recognized ghost is the Judge–Matthew Begbie," said Marc Vermette, Programmer of the Maritime Museum and Site Manager at Helmcken House. "This is the most haunted area [of the city]."

Smith agrees. In her book, she says that Judge Begbie earned the nickname "the Hanging Judge" because of his swift–and permanent–sentences doled out to criminals.

There are multiple stories of ghost sightings at the Maritime Museum. Vermette, never having seen Begbie himself, tells of other folks who have. Once two men were moving heavy equipment to the top floor by way of the open-door elevator when it suddenly stopped on the second floor, frozen. Then a wind began to blow inside the elevator, a whirl wind. "These guys are standing in the middle of the elevator…and the wind is blowing so strong these guys were literally pinned to the walls of the elevator," said Vermette. In seconds, the wind stopped and the incident was over.

Doubters beware. Vermette has loads of stories about ghosts in Victoria, including his experience involving lights flicking on and off when no one is inside the locked Helmcken House. Toys are moved and played with, a paranormal activity attributed to John Helmcken's children.

Ghost Stories and Mysterious Creatures of B.C. contains many more tidbits–most stories are less than three pages long–about the history and folklore in this city in addition to tales of towns in B.C. you may never have even heard of. Reading the whole thing is a bit of spooky overkill, but browsing sections like "Sea Lore" or "Classically Haunted" can provide enough to chill and tease you into the Halloween spirit.

Top Victoria Haunts:
George Nias property on Dallas Road
Emily Carr House
Craigdarroch Castle (the Dunsmuirs)
Hately Castle
Maritime Museum
Helmcken House
Oak Bay Golf Course (Gravlin Ghosts)
Point Ellice House (Lady in Blue)
Tod House
Royal Theatre
McPherson Playhouse

PROVIDED PHOTO

LuluMae makes checks Bettina's heart. Lucky for us they're medical practitioners 'cause those outfits send the bloodpressure skyyyyyyyy high! Meow!

Half-naked feminists and the revival of burlesque

BY BRIONY SMITH

Billed as "the brassy dames of burlesque," two local lasses have set out to revitalize the art of the subtle shimmy.

Like the burlesque greats of the past and present, they prefer to go by their stage names so as not to ruin the illusion. And what an illusion it is.

LuluMae and Bettina first became intrigued by burlesque–a variety show characterized by broad ribald comedy, dancing and striptease–when they took part in a sexy comedy sketch at a recent fetish show at a local bar. Dressed as naughty nurses, the two girls delighted in the sense of freedom they felt as they strutted their stuff onstage.

"Once I realized I could do it, I wasn't nervous anymore," said LuluMae. The confidence she felt under the spotlight motivated her to learn burlesque. Bettina also lost her inhibition on the bar stage, where she felt the zing of performing saucily in front of a crowd.

As people interested in retro culture and body art, LuluMae and Bettina had been "ogling each other from a distance" for a while, but it was their shared experience in the tight embrace of the naughty nurses' uniforms that brought them together at last.

Once they realized their shared curiosity in the bawdy humour and sexiness of burlesque, they quickly got to work putting together a modern burlesque act. "Burlesque is a celebration of healthy sexuality and femininity," Bettina said.

"It isn't about getting naked, but the idea of getting naked," added LuluMae. "It's about teasing, leaving something to be desired."

Rather than go the route of the '60s go-go girl or the '30s cabaret burlesque, they chose to emulate the style performed during the heyday of the art in the '40s and '50s. LuluMae and Bettina, avid fans of the fashion of those decades, were eager to adorn themselves with curls, cherry-red lipstick and their pink-and-black ensembles. They were down with the imagery and the style, says Bettina. But "not the politics."

Despite the depressingly strict role of women during those anti-empowerment years, LuluMae and Bettina say people should check their expectations at the door.

They acknowledge there are critics of burlesque, but these gals view burlesque as a conduit of empowerment. "Burlesque is a way to express my sexuality freely," said Bettina. LuluMae added "we're doing it for fun!" They seek to honour the big names in burlesque and other women from the past, like Bettie Page, who were confident about their bodies and secure in their unabashed sexuality. LuluMae and Bettina, both professed feminists, want to do burlesque from a feminist perspective. "You don't need the perfect body, just the confidence to do it," said Lulumae.

This women-friendly vibe helps to power the burlesque revival that is going on in Canada today, as evidenced by popular Vancouver-based burlesque troupes like Cecilia Bravo's Fluffgirls Burlesque and the Empire Burlesque Follies.

LuluMae and Bettina, who perform together as the "Bettilu Bombshells," will perform a Halloween show this year. They look forward to putting on a spectacular that will show how seriously they take the art of burlesque and will, as Bettina said, "honour the women who have paved the way."

The Bettilu Bombshells perform at Lucky Bar on Halloween night. For more info, visit www.bettilubombshells.com.

Here be the scariest movies you've never heard of

BY DANIEL SAUNDERS

Still don't have a scary movie for your Halloween party? Here are some most people haven't seen, which should still be available at your local independent video store. But *be warned*! Go not to these for cheese, but for blood-curdling, blood-soaked chills.

Suspiria (1977) Shocking and dream-like Italian film about a ballet school that happens to also be a witches' coven. One of the freakiest soundtracks ever recorded, which makes even the DVDs Special Features screen frightening to watch.

The Changeling (1980) Although slow in places, this is still one of the most ominous leasing situations since the Torrances got the keys to the Overlook Hotel. George C. Scott has to unravel the mystery of a huge and increasingly malevolent house and the room at the top of the stairs, which holds a child-sized wheelchair…

Scanners (1981) Not traditional Halloween fare, but mightily eerie. From Canadian director David Cronenberg, it's about a war between good and evil telepaths and the madness that results from not being able to close your mind to the jabbering thoughts around you. Plus it's got that famous "exploding head" scene.

Near Dark (1987) A family of redneck vampires, including Lance Henriksen and a crazed Bill Paxton, take a young buck for a ride. When they're not raining mayhem on their part of Texas, they try to help him embrace his new vampire-hood.

Candyman (1992) You may have heard of this movie, but did you know it's about graduate students? Now that's scary. For her thesis on urban legends, a young woman goes to a housing project where the inhabitants live in fear of a man with a hook for a hand who appears when you say his name five times into a mirror. What follows is horrifying, intriguing, and truly unpredictable.

Ginger Snaps (2000) Smart, scary and wickedly funny Canadian werewolf movie with a cult following. Two teenaged sisters, morbid outcasts who make the pair in Ghost World look like the Olsen twins, are attacked on the night of a full moon, and the one who is bitten starts to discover she's developing new "appetites."

Dagon (2001) All things damp and slimy, all creatures gross and weird: this film is an adaptation of a seriously ooky H.P. Lovecraft story, about a couple trapped in an isolated Spanish town where the inhabitants are becoming fish monsters. An overlooked horror classic, with a pace that doesn't let up and a willingness to go over the line Evil Dead-style in both humour and scares.

Dog Soldiers (2002) "I expect nothing less than gratuitous violence from the lot of ya!" bellows a character in this horror flick wherein a Scottish military squad fights a pack of werewolves in the woods. This film is just as much fun as Aliens, but maybe even more so due to the spirited and sometimes-indecipherable argot the lads speak in–examples include "tosser" and "bollocks" and much colourful swearing.

More good bets: *Phantasm* (1979), *Dawn of the Dead* (1979), *Session 9* (2001), and, if you dare, the original *The Haunting* (1963).

PROVIDED PHOTO

Hideous fish people in the gore-fest *Dagon*

Assessing anti-climatic angst

BY TIM HANSON

The Morning Star
by Nick Bantock
Raincoast Books

Once upon a time, on a Gulf island not so far from here, Nick Bantock set out for his postbox with the innocent intention of getting his mail. What developed from those quiet moments of airmail envy has now attracted an almost cultish following to the "Griffin and Sabine" series.

Bantock weaves his imaginative magic once again in *The Morning Star*. The success of the series is testament to his excellent artwork and calligraphy. Life springs forth vividly from the postcards and envelopes that caress the reader's eyes.

Though the mists of mystery swirl around the reader and we are caught up in the warm swells of Isabella and Matthew's affections, their passion seems to run aground before ever having set sail.

The introduction of Frohlatti into the story holds it back from engaging the reader fully.

Bantock attempts to amplify the feelings of Mathew and Isabella by using Frohlatti's presence to cast a sense of urgency and danger upon them.

But this urgency does nothing but stall the relationship and disrupt any feelings that they might be trying to convey to one another.

The earlier books in Bantock's series that emphasized the passion of the lovers are superior. Though Griffin and Sabine expressed far greater depths of love, desire and character through their previous correspondence and attempts to meet, devout fans of the series will definitely enjoy *The Morning Star*.

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Two last farewells to a man of greatness

BY REBECCA PERIC

Never again will anyone be able to anticipate new music written by Elliott Smith.

Never again will the sweet, melancholy voice of this extraordinary musician grace a new song. Smith died on Tuesday, October 21 from an apparently self-inflicted stab wound at age 34.

There's something about his music that makes it incredibly unique and special, something that pulls people in. Perhaps it's that his voice has a peaceful lull to it or maybe that his guitar seems to flirt with the tune. For whatever reason, his songs have captured his fans' mind and soul.

For those of you who can't place the name Elliott Smith, think of *Good Will Hunting*. Many of the songs on the movie soundtrack are by him, and his song "Miss Misery" in that movie was nominated for an Academy Award.

Smith, originally named Steven Paul, was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and started his music career at age nine.

He played in various bands throughout his musical career: Stranger Than Fiction while at Lincoln High School; A Murder of Crows while at Hampshire College; and later on, Heatmiser. During his time with Heatmiser he began to release solo music.

During his lifetime, he released five full-length solo albums along with a number of singles. He was working on his sixth album at the time of his death.

Survived by family, friends and fans, he is a man who will not be forgotten. The love and respect for him will never fade.

PROVIDED PHOTOS

BY MATT CAVERS

In the midst of an afternoon drinking binge in a Portland motel room a couple of weeks ago, I learned from a credible source (read: vacuous American talk show) that scientists have identified a new psychological disorder–Celebrity Fixation Syndrome or CFS. Scary.

We've all known someone obsessed with celebrities and their personal lives–an oddball aunt who holds forth endlessly about Brad Pitt and his newest wife, a grandfather who will lecture about how Alex Trebeck is a brilliant, brilliant man, or someone like my friend Katrina, who burst into my Grade Eight English class one day, choked with tears for then-recently-dead Tupac Shakur. I thought it was just a harmless eccentricity, but a psychological disorder? That's serious.

So when a friend showed me the front page of *the Province* yesterday, I pokered my face and shrugged off the small-print B-section headline, "Singer Elliott Smith dead at 34." Elliott Smith, dead of a single, self-inflicted knife wound to the chest? Bad news, but immaterial on a personal level. The last thing I wanted was to be accused of being psychologically unsound.

But is Elliott Smith's death so immaterial in my life? Well, I didn't know the guy. Nor would I ever consider stalking him at every one of his shows, writing creepy letters to him, and then driving off a bridge in a stunning, Eminem-meets-Dido-esque climax. But when I remember plunging myself deep into the jangly, beer-soaked romp of "Waltz #2," transcending bittersweet adolescence in a first-year residence room, it seems so clear that his music has been a soundtrack of sorts for the last few years of my life.

Poor guy–he must have been tired of writing soundtracks.

Elliott Smith seemed to be omnipresent. The rich layers of "Sweet Adeline" first thing in the morning, eating granola before working my shitty job at a kitchen store, sung life into my dead hometown of Richmond, B.C. Soft and personal songs from *Either/Or* while driving around in the passenger seat of my girlfriend-at-the-time's car, late at night in the middle of nowhere, or the upbeat singalong of "Bled White" while having a gin-fuelled argument with my best friend's girlfriend over which one of Elliott's albums was the best. Or the stiff-upper-lip defeat of "Somebody That I Used To Know," during the less-than-buoyant moments after the previously mentioned girl became my ex.

It's true–I'm moved by Elliott Smith's rock-star suicide. But I couldn't have been obsessed with him because the real Elliott, whom I only discovered through this week's news articles, was a far different character than the one I invented for the voice on the albums. The Elliott Smith in my life was a different Elliott Smith than the one who knifed himself last week.

His music, no matter how melancholy, always filled me with a sense of indescribable beauty, lightness, radiance. It's a shame that it wasn't enough for the man himself. So goodbye, Real Elliott Smith. As for my version, I'll see you at home. And as for the fans leaving flowers at his shrine in L.A., I'm referring them all for psychiatric assessment.

Scary Movie 3 is a grotesque unit of time-suckage

BY MAX LAMB

I was 12 when I paid to see the movie *Batman and Robin* in the theatre.

The previous installments of the series were entertaining, and I thought *Batman and Robin* could capture the same magic.

Instead, I watched as Arnold Schwarzenegger single-handedly pulled off the worst Batman villain of all time, and George Clooney nearly ruined his career. I sought therapy for months after that, not for the disappointment of the film itself, but for the fact that I paid a large sum of money to see it. I have never, not since *Batman and Robin*, been as mad about paying to see a movie in theatres as I have with seeing *Scary Movie 3*.

Scary Movie 3 had all of the potential to be a great sequel. The movie, directed by David Zucker of *Airplane!* fame, stars Anna Faris in her recurring role as the protagonist, Cindy Campbell. Other featured stars include Charlie Sheen, Leslie Nielson, Queen Latifah, Eddie Griffin, Anthony Anderson and George Carlin. One might think with a cast this spectacular the third sequel would top the original.

Sadly, it doesn't come close to the genius of the first *Scary Movie*. It was even less impressive than the ungodly *Scary Movie 2*, which proves that the series is getting progressively worse.

The film parodies many film hits such as *The Matrix, Signs, The Ring, The Others*, and *8 Mile*. But the largest flaw with this film is that it relies on parodying these films entirely, instead of developing its own sense of humour. Think of it as a "Weird Al" Yankovic album.

An example of this comes when the film touches on Eminem's rap duel scene in *8 Mile*. *Scary Movie 3* doesn't mock it, but recreates it with Simon Cowell adjudicating the performances. The *American Idol* joke has been done too many times and is no longer in demand.

The plot of the movie combines elements of *The Ring* and *Signs* into a story of aliens preparing to attack Earth, while a psychotic little girl mutilates anyone who watches horrific images on a tape. Through this story, the audience is subjected to hundreds of jokes that involve one character physically attacking another character in a comic fashion. This is no new ground, as it's simply slapstick humour.

The problem is that most of what we see in this movie relies on this form of violent comedy. Either Charlie Sheen attacks a mock Michael Jackson, Simon Rex runs over Anna Faris' son, beats him senseless, or puts his head up against a ceiling fan. Slapstick brutality is a trademark of the *Scary Movie* series, but this installment takes the violence too far.

There was one funny scene in the movie involving senseless violence and porn stars. In the opening scene, Pamela Anderson and Jenny McCarthy recreate the first scene in *The Ring*, while physically assaulting each other with large, blunt, breakable objects. That scene on its own would have made for an excellent piece of sketch comedy. Unfortunately, the movie keeps going, even though the laughs stop shortly after the opening credits.

Don't be fooled by the impressive trailer. This is a terrible, terrible movie that you would have to pay me to watch again. At least then I could get my money back.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Whatever happened to "No mercy. No shame. No sequel"?

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(If an Arts Editor isn't here, leave your name and contact info.)

Peanuts and Corn Records are poppin' fresh on their tour

by Tyler J. Lemmon

The Break Bread Crew has a lot of food on their table.

This Canadian hip-hop group, who consist of MC's mcenroe, Pip Skid, John Smith, Yy and DJ Hunnicut, has toured relentlessly to promote their own independent imprint, Peanuts and Corn Records. After forming their own label in 1994 and developing a cult following in central Canada, they now hope to establish themselves on the left coast and, eventually, globally.

"We haven't nearly tapped our potential markets," said mcenroe, the head of Peanuts and Corn Records.

"We have a lot of work to do in the States and Japan."

Formed in Winnipeg, most of the Crew has spent over a decade in the hip-hop game. "We were Brandon, Manitoba's first hip-hop group," Pip Skid said proudly, adding that they had to play at punk-rock venues and "sketchy bars" when they first decided to clutch mics. "We were also the first to play a 30-40 minute hip-hop set in Winnipeg."

Although the sheer size of the Crew draws comparisons to groups like Nappy Roots or the Boot Camp Clik, their style of music is less identifiable.

"We wanted to be ourselves and not hip-hop about stuff we didn't know," mcenroe said. "We leave the hot sound to Jay-Z."

Collectively, the group is fed up with the seriousness of hip-hop today. They cite De La Soul, Biz Markie and A Tribe Called Quest as their primary influences. "[I loved] the goofiness of the early 90s," said mcenroe. Pip Skid is more blunt: "Hip-hop takes itself way too seriously. Nowadays it's too many dudes trying to protect their fragile immaturity."

With a discography brimming with nearly 30 selections, Peanuts and Corn Records' continued expansion has already created a full-time job for mic-wrecker/beatwizard mcenroe, but collaborations and guest appearances seem limited to talent within the label.

"Making a song with someone I don't know is out of the question," Skid said. "Making music with my friends is so enjoyable–that's the cream of life right there." Although it is "not a closed system," mcenroe echoes his group member's sentiments: "I only work with people I can get along with," he said.

Hip-hop music has never been Canada's forte, where monetary success is usually achieved by venturing down to our southerly neighbours. But mcenroe points to an improved distribution scene and a growing network between artists in Canada. Pip Skid is also cautiously optimistic. "Hopefully, Canada can support its musicians," he said.

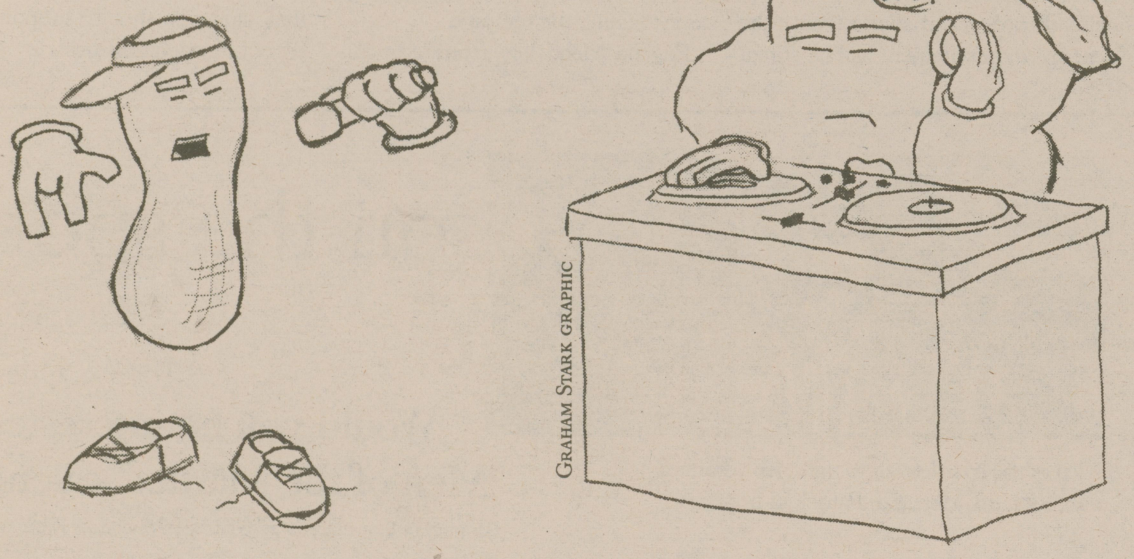
It's clear the Break Bread Crew hope to perform for a living. "We are regular people who work day jobs," mcenroe said. Pip adds, "My stage show is what I live for, but it sucks having to make 250 egg salad sandwiches the next day."

"I am also a painter," Yy said, taking a similar approach, "I do this for the love of music and the money that comes with it is just a little bonus."

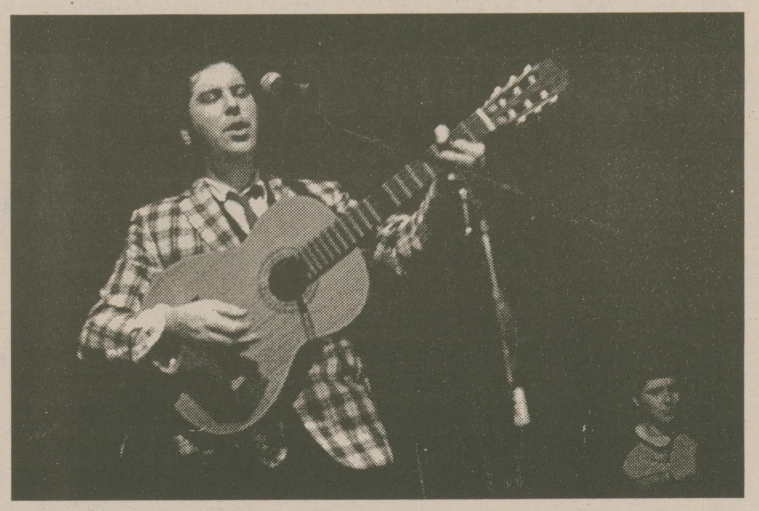
This humbleness, so rare in today's hip-hop landscape of braggadocio, Bentleys, and Benjamins, is what makes the group so admirable to its loyal followers.

With their album already available in Japan, and John Smith and Pip Skid about to release their own solo music videos, there seems to be no stopping Peanuts and Corn's international reputation as one of the most appealing underground hip-hop acts this nation has recently produced.

The Peanuts and Corn Records Tour 2003 featuring The Break Bread Crew will play at Steamer's Pub on Nov. 1. Doors open at 9 p.m.



Graham Stark graphic



Sarah Petrescu photo

Rheostatics member Martin Tielli playing at the Lucky Bar Oct. 21.

Martin Tielli

Canada's favourite musical enigma

by Sarah Petrescu

Martin Tielli needs a smoke. The enigmatic rocker, and one-quarter of Canadian favourites The Rheostatics, is days away from wrapping up a cross-country tour and the perpetual sipping between cigarette and Heineken doesn't seem to be curing the exhaustion.

"I'm really sorry," he says, "We haven't been getting much sleep lately."

The "we" Tielli is referring to includes his kick-ass band, with guitar-slaying wailer Ford Pier, piano songstress Christine Fellows and bassist Greg Smith. It is rare, even unheard of, that such a line-up of accomplished performers should tour small bars and halls together.

"Yeah, this tour could've been better put together," admits Tielli, "but it's been a lot of fun." Tielli is promoting his new album, *Operation Infinite Joy*, the title track being a play on U.S. President George Bush's Operation Infinite Justice.

Despite the grim allusion to 9/11, *Operation Infinite Joy* is lighthearted and playful compared to Tielli's last album, written after a nasty breakup. "I wanted to do something more upbeat. There is a lot of energy in this album," says Tielli.

Operation Infinite Joy is branded in the Tielli style with elaborate guitar riffs, overlapping harmonies and strange aquatic noise. Tielli is known in the Canadian music scene as an innovator, with some even calling him a genius.

He is used to rebelling against the status quo. Tielli grew up in an Italian neighborhood in Toronto and resisted conforming to stereotypical macho Italian behavior. "I tried to separate myself from that whole scene–the haircuts, Trans-Am's and cologne. I didn't fit into that mold. Nobody was into art so I became a bit of a loner," he says.

Music was Tielli's birthright. His parents met in Italy while his mother was traveling and his father was working as a musician. "My dad was playing mandolin at the hostel my mom was staying at. He wasn't out to pick up girls or anything. But they met and married a month later," says Tielli.

Tielli joined The Rheostatics in 1985 and has had his toes in several projects at once ever since. He will finish his tour and begin working on his next album, a part of his four-album limited-edition subscription series he plans to have out within the next year.

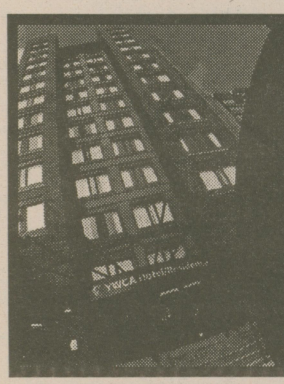
A break is definitely in the works for Tielli, who plans to spend some time in Italy and drive across Canada while not touring. "I want to see this country and not just pass it by quickly in a van," he says.

Despite his crazy lifestyle of artistic multitasking, Tielli has no qualms about what he does. "I go through feeling blessed to cursed, but I don't feel trapped. I can always go in different directions. Art is my freedom."

Music Trivia

What is Tielli's alias under which he released the album *Circo*?

If you know, you could win a copy of Martin Tielli's *Operation Infinite Joy* by writing the Martlet at **arts@martlet.ca**



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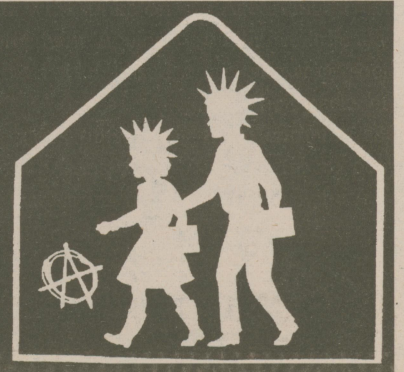

"Death to all fanatics"

Vikes game? What Vikes game?!

Jenny Hicks examines the mystery of the missing UVic fans

BY JENNY HICKS

Despite the athletic department's claim that they advertise university athletics widely, students say the main reason they don't attend sporting events and games is because they don't know about them.

Although the majority of students interviewed believe in supporting athletics, few attend games on a regular basis. For Nicola Hayden, a Humanities student, lack of advertising is the problem "I see some ads on TV but I don't hear a lot about the games. I don't attend because I never hear about them," she said.

However, according to the Athletics department public relations coordinator, Pete Lewis, the department does plenty to inform students about Vikes sporting events.

"We work very hard to encourage our students to attend our events," said Lewis. "We distribute Vikes pocket schedules. We also advertise in *the Martlet*, advertise all games on the Ring Road sign…We are listed in the coming events on UVic's main website and in *the Ring* calendar of events. All games are also posted on the Vikes Athletics website," said Lewis. "In addition, we advertise in the *Times Colonist*…[and] on all the [radio stations] that UVic students listen to.

"We also understand that athletics isn't for everyone on campus and therefore try to provide an atmosphere at our events that is fun and exciting… [so] non-sports-minded students will also enjoy the experience."

RICHARD WARNICA PHOTO

The Vikes Carey Gustafson, left, fights for a ball against Lethbridge in front of a mostly empty Centennial Stadium last Sunday.

Lewis said giveaways, free barbecues and free admission are used to attract more students. For example, earlier this year they gave away a Vancouver Canucks weekend getaway at the first soccer home game of the year and held a barbecue in conjunction with the UVSS and Cinecenta.

"I believe that once a student attends one of our sports events, the energy and excitement will be contagious. They will continue to keep coming. We just have to keep trying new and exciting ways to inform," said Lewis.

But even with all the Athletics Department's efforts, students still aren't getting the message.

Eugene Mendelev, a fine arts student, said he has never seen the pocket schedules around campus and has yet to see a schedule of games in *the Martlet*.

Overall, students agree that more promotion of Vikes events would result in better attendance.

Despite the less-than-overwhelming attendance at Vikes events, Interim Coordinator of Athletics James Keogh said, "support for Vikes athletics is very strong both in the community and on-campus."

Lewis and Keogh both agree that UVic has a good base of students who attend events and a higher attendance rate than most Canada West Universities.

However, Jenny McCartney, an arts student, said she used to attend games a lot and "more people at games would create a fun environment."

Students who have gone to games say they attend basketball and soccer more than other sports because they are the most successful. They also find basketball the most spectator-friendly because of the grandstands, half-time presentations and the UVic mascot, Thunder.

But what former UVic student Erin Houldsworth remembers from her days as a university student athlete is "the crowds are mainly family and significant others." She said attendance at UVic could be better, and that students should support their school through athletics.

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Men of the Martlet: left to right: Jeb, Graham, dan, Richard, John, Ed; Patrick in front.

on the spot

Today's Question:

Would you be interested in a "Men of the Martlet" calendar?

BASHFULLY CONDUCTED BY GRAHAM STARK AND RICH WARNICA

Amber Jones (left)
Business
Justina Pap
Business

GS: So, would you buy a "Men of the Martlet" calendar?
JP: Sure, why not?
GS: What d'you think of this guy?
(points to Ed Baskerville in photo)
JP: I'd definitely go out with him.
AJ: Oh yeah!
JP: He's sultry and mysterious.
RW: He *is* a muscular, older man.

Scott Payne
UVSS Director of Services

SP: Absolutey!
RW: Well, who would you pick for Mr. January?
SP: Ed Baskerville has to be in there if only for that devilish smile. JT's a pretty sexy guy and Patrick White would work as Mr. December, but only if you ran his name as Patrick "P-Diddy" White.
GS: Wow, that's two votes for Ed already.

Danielle Prokop
Visual Arts

DP: Why not? Geek is the new hot.
RW: Anyone special you see?
DP: I'd have to go for this guy (points at dan) because he's pure evil.
GS: Would you buy it?
DP: Yeah. I'd rather get off to smart boys than sporty boys.
RW: I should mention, I'm the sports editor
DP: Oh god! You're not Rich Cole are you?

Jeong Hyun (left)
Education
Heather Hadley
English

HH: Well… I have nothing against it. I mean, any of the guys there–they're all good looking guys.
GS: Any in particular strike your fancy?
HH: The one in the hat.
GS: Ed! Again! That guy's on fire!

The "Men of the Martlet 2003" Calendar is unlikely to be available any time soon.

Morgan Leverman, you are my hero

Vikes goalie rewarded for dominant season

BY MEGAN STEWART

Morgan Leverman has all the reason in the world to brag about her success, but the Vikes soccer goaltender is more comfortable thanking her teammates than talking about herself.

In an interview this weekend, Leverman heaped praise on her teammates and coach, giving them most of the credit for her accomplishments.

Leverman can afford to be modest. Two weeks ago, she was named the Canada West Athlete of the Week, an honour no other Vike has received this season.

"Morgan is an exceptional athlete and very deserving of this award," said UVic Coordinator of Athletes, James Keogh. "She works hard in practice and even harder in games and is a big part of the reason why the team is having such a successful season."

Leverman's seven shutouts led the Vikes to nine wins in 14 games this season, good enough for second place in Canada West and a berth in this weekend's Western Championships, held in Lethbridge. This past Sunday, in the last game of the regular season, Leverman dominated the net against the Lethbridge Pronghorns in a 6-0 UVic win.

This weekend's stinginess was no one shot deal. Only seven shots hit the mesh behind Leverman this year, making her the number one goaltender in the conference.

Leverman, as typical, shuffled the credit elsewhere. "Shutouts aren't everything," she said. "I'd be nowhere without the defense. Not to mention the forwards who keep the ball in the offensive third."

This year's playoffs will be her last chance at glory in UVic colours. This is her fifth and final year at UVic, a reality she said she's not quite ready to cope with. "I don't really know who I am if I'm not playing soccer, if I'm not a Vike," she said.

Before coming to Victoria, Leverman made her home in beautiful Prince George.

"My parents were hippies," she said. "They were raising two athletes and didn't know what to do with us."

Eventually, Leverman's father learned to love sport because he supported his kids. He read books, coached their teams and cheered at games.

After coming to UVic in 1999, Leverman spent most of her rookie season on the bench. She got her chance to start at the end of the year and has been between the posts for every kickoff since.

A big reason for Leverman's consistency is her on-field persona. Leverman watches the ball with such intensity she admits to sometimes not knowing where shots come from. She'll note the striker, take in the play, and devour the black and white globe. "I think during practice," she explains, "And just work off instinct during the games."

"The more 'on' I am, the less I remember of the game," she says. In fact, she claims to be so trance-like and serious that she forgets most of the action until she sees video footage after the match.

During her five years with the Vikes, Leverman has had three head coaches, but credits current head coach Tracy David for being the most positive and influential.

"[Former coach] Ian [Bridge] taught me skills," she said, "But if it wasn't for Tracy [David] I couldn't play the way I do."

In fact, had it not been for David, Leverman might not have played this year at all.

After her third year with the team, Leverman doubted her place on the pitch. David made her face her fears and convinced her she has what it takes to compete, a decision that David says has paid dividends for UVic soccer.

"Morgan leads by example," she said. "She gets ticked off when players don't hit their targets [during practice] because she gets less play."

With her UVic career over, Leverman will stay involved with the game this summer by coaching in the United States at the Tony Dicicco Goalkeeping School. She trained at the school last summer and they offered her a job for the following year. "I was there to get shots," she said. "They asked me back to coach."

Leverman said soccer will always be in her future, whether she's coaching or playing.

"She's an asset," said David. "You have to give her credit for everything she's come into."

LIZ ESTEY PHOTO

Morgan Leverman backstopped the Vikes to nine wins this season

Back off! Get your own ball

RICHARD WARNICA PHOTO

Frustrated by her team's inability to score goals, a Lethbridge Pronghorn prepares to hurdle the ball at the head of UVic's Cheryl Bjorgan. Carey Gustafson, background number ten ,races to avert the tragedy.. Nefarious Pronghorn tactics notwithstanding, the Vikes won the game 6–0.

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Sports briefs

Soccer

Cheers for Women

The Women's team went 1–0–1 this past week. On Friday, they tied the University of Calgary Dinos 1-1. Sunday, in their final regular season game, they lambasted the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns 6–0. With that win, the Vikes finish their regular season in second place, behind UBC (see poem this page) with a record of 9–2–3. Sunday's game was also the last regular season for departing vets Joann Nash, Morgan Leverman, Tanya Berg, Liane Walker and Lindsay Gaunt. Gaunt ended her career on a high point by netting two goals. The women will now prepare for the Canada West Championships, held at the University of Lethbridge, November 1–2.

Tears for Men

The Men's team went 2–0–0 this past week against competition from the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge. Both games were "must wins,", as the Men were vying with UBC for the fourth and final invite to the Canada West Championship. Despite the wins, the Vikes 7-4-1 record was not enough when UBC won their last game, claiming the final playoff berth. Sunday's game was also the last time that goaltender Jordan Robinson would make his appearance as a Vike.

Basketball

Women are number one

The reigning National Champion Vikes will enter the regular season ranked first in the CIS. According to the pre-season CIS Women's Basketball Top Ten poll, UVic received 284 votes putting them in first place. SFU came in second with 246 votes, with Winnipeg rounding out the top three with 224 votes. This past spring, the women pulled off an upset as they defeated teams from Memorial, Laval and Winnipeg to win the national championship.

Men thumped on Prairies

The Men's team went 1-2-0 this past weekend at the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Invitational in Saskatoon. On Thursday, they lost 89-99 to the Trinity Western Spartans.

Friday, they defeated the University of Saskatchewan 87-59, but then lost to the University of Waterloo 66-68 on Saturday. Chris Trumpy was the high scoring Vike, averaging 19 ppg. The Men will travel to the University of Alberta this weekend for the U of A Golden Bears tournament.

Rugby

Women bounce back from Can West loss

UVic bounced back from the heartbreak of last week's Canada West championships to beat Burnaby 26–17. The Vikes played most of the game with only 14 players following a first half injury.

Men come up short

The Vikes team lost their weekend match to Burnaby 6–8. Mike Danskin scored all six Vikes points.

Boat's progress halted by other boat

Nic Hume photo

UVic's rowing team practices at Elk Lake. UVic hosts the Canadian university rowing championships this weekend. at Elk Lake

Rock, paper, paper, glory

Canadian triumphs at rock paper scissors world championships

by Jenny Hicks

It's that time of year again. The air is crisp, baseball is over, hockey has begun, and it's time again for the Rock Paper Scissors (RPS) International World Championships.

More than 900 competitors and spectators crammed into the Koolhaus in Toronto last weekend to watch players from around the world compete for the Championship trophy. Taking top honours this year was Canadian Rob Krueger of the Ontario based "Legion of the Red Fist." In addition to the trophy, Krueger walked away with $5,000 and the gold medal.

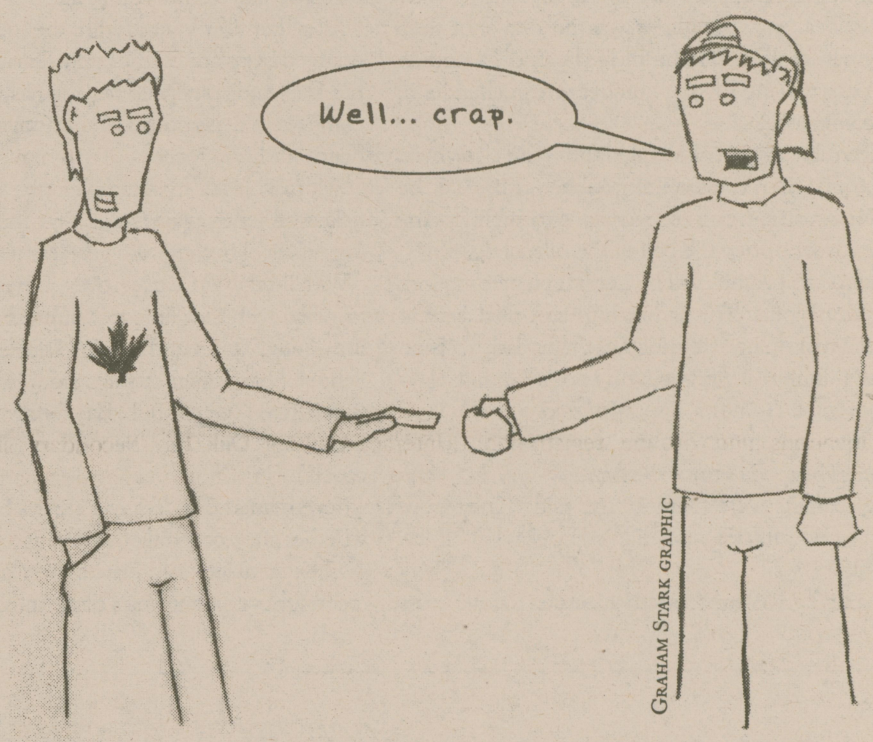
Krueger defeated his opponent in the final round by throwing down a gambit (defined by the Masters guide to RPS as "a series of three consecutive moves made with strategic intention") known as fistful o' dollars (rock, paper, paper).

Krueger's gambit was enough to beat runner up Marc Rigaux's avalanche series (rock, rock, rock) to capture the title.

"Marc and I kept stalemating in the final match, which created a lot of tension onstage," said Krueger in an RPS press release. "I had to block out the noise of the crowd and concentrate on reading Marc's face. When he threw two rocks in a row, I guessed he was going to complete the Avalanche gambit with a third rock, so I switched strategies at the last second."

A collection of eight gambits are commonly used on the world stage, including The Crescendo (paper, scissors, rock) and paper dolls (paper, scissors, scissors).

According to the World RPS website, rock, paper, scissors began in 1842 in London, England after a law was passed declaring that agreements reached by using rock, paper, scissors were legally binding. But recreational players became upset by the legal aspect of the game and the club eventually broke free from the long arm of the law.



Graham Stark graphic

In 1918, the World RPS Club moved from London, England to Toronto, Ontario. As membership grew to over 1,000 members in 1935, they dropped their club status and adopted the name The World RPS Society.

Today, the Society is dedicated to promoting RPS as a fun and safe way to resolve disputes. As the governing body of the sport, the Society provides it members with conferences, symposiums and retreats around the world to further their skills.

In conjunction with this year's world championships the Society released an excerpt from an upcoming DVD on their website. In the teaser, world-class player Mr. C. Urbanus provides a series of tips and instructions for the aspiring player:

Tip #32, the element of surprise–if you expect someone to throw a rock then you're going to throw paper and they throw scissors then you lose.

Tip #72, Sicilian Reasoning–This has a lot to do with how much they know about you and how much you know about them. So if they know you're apt to lead with rock then they're going to throw paper. So if you know that they know that you're going to throw rock and they're going to throw paper then you can throw scissors.

But then they would know that you know that they know that you know and… you'll just have to play it by ear.

Urbanus' advice, like the Society itself, seems too bizarre to be true. But with the official headquarters of the World RPS Society in Toronto and a homegrown World champion, Canadian sports fans might be better off playing along.

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UBC is a garbage school

by Richard Warnica

You Thunderbirds
You mainland twits
You stuck-up bags of ash
Your football team is awful
And your soccer teams are trash

At basketball
At rugby
At running on the track
Your athletes are so wretched
They look like they're on crack

O UBC
O shitty birds
O portly pissy ghouls
Your coaches are all ugly
Your fans all hopeless fools

To you O crappy stuck up school
I have one thing to say
You suck You suck
You suck You suck
So have a shitty day

Go Vikes!

Billboards

oped@martlet.ca | 721-8360

On campus

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY: Monica Nyland, International Officer for ABO AKADEMI University, will be giving a presentation on exchange opportunities to Finland's Swedish University on Friday, October 31 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. in CIT 110. Come discover what ABO AKADEMI and the land of saunas has to offer! For more info, contact the International and Exchange Student Services Office: 472-6361 or iess@uvic.ca.

UVic Circle K Volunteers Club Want to be part of the World's largest university/college service organization?! Circle K is all about service, leadership, fellowship and having lots of FUN!!! Circle K is a great place to meet new people, work with children, students, adults, seniors and a totally awesome organization to be part of! Circle K meets every Wed. in CLE A301 at 6 p.m. So please come join us or contact Neelam Sandhu at neelams@uvic.ca for more information.

Wondering how to make your degree work for you when you graduate? Attend free career forums on **Wednesday, November 5, 2003, 5:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.** – "What Can I Do With a Degree in – Fine Arts, Humanities, Science, Social Sciences?" Explore career options. Network with recent grads who will share their experiences in making the transition from school to work. Connect with experienced grads who can offer valuable advice and contacts. Refreshments too! For more information, forum locations and on-line registration: www.stas.uvic.ca/careers or contact UVic Career Services, 721-8421.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS REGIONAL CONFERENCE at UVic, Nov. 7–9. This conference will bring together Catholic university/college students from all across Western Canada. Check out details and registration forms at www.stas.uvic.ca/chap/catholic

WE'RE HAVING A CEILIDH
When: Saturday, November 29, 2003--7:00p.m. to 10:30p.m.. **Where:** The Michele Pujol Room in the UVic SUB. **What:** Scottish country dancing, live music, food, entertainment. **Cost:** $2 (bring your student card) or $4 regular. Need more information? Contact Mistress of Balarney. mistress_of_balarney@yahoo.ca or phone (250) 472-3533

Off campus

Pachanga latina & Latin Fever Noche de Brujas, Oct. 31 at the Princess Mary Restaurant 358 Harbour rd. From 8 p.m. till 2 a.m., 3 great dance shows, swing, breakdance and salsa as well as 3 latin DJs bringing you a mix of latin pop merengue, salsa, cumbia, swing and english music. $12 a ticket which includes the salsa class and an extra ticket for a salsa dance on Saturday night at the Fusion Cafe. Great prizes for costumes.

The African Caribbean Students Association of UVic presents Afro-Cari Fair Sat. Oct. 25, Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone Ave – 2 p.m. to late. Dance @ 7 p.m. Fair $5, Dance $5, Both $8 Gumboot, Food, stories, soccer, drumming.

Twenty Cloned Brians presents "Hourglass Dreams" featuring: Onward... by kYroIs, There Made Out of Meat by kYroIs and Ah Eurydice by Stanley Taikeff. At La Run Theatre – 1983 Fairfield Road. Tuesday November 18 through Saturday, November 22. Doors open at 7 p.m. – Showtime at 8 p.m. All tickets $10. Please reserve tickets in advance by calling 995-5958 or email theatrepeople@hotmail.com.

The Greater Victoria Down Syndrome Society will be holding a **CRAFT FAIR** on Sat., Nov. 1, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cadboro Bay United Church, 2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria. Profits from the Craft Fair will be used to assist the GVDSS in its advocacy efforts. For further information contact Peggy Morfitt at 721-2916.

1st Annual Aboriginal Agency Fair. A day open to the public and all service representatives working with Aboriginal people in the Capital Region. This is a unique opportunity for Aborigianl agency representatives and community members to exchange information, establish networks and build collaborative partnerships. October 30 10 a.m.– 3 p.m. at Silver Threads Seniors Centre, #4 Centennial Square, Victoria, B.C.

COMMUNITY BROOM BASH: Cattle Point in Uplands Park. Sat. Oct. 25 and Sun Oct 26 1–4 p.m.. Bring your own tools: saws. loppers, gloves and your family. Join Girl Guides, Rotory Club of Oak Bay and the Interact Club of Oak Bay Secondary and remove scotch broom and other non-native invasive plants from the Garry Oak meadow. Participate in an envirnomentally friendly, family and community event and get a physical workout! Contact Margaret Lidkea 595-8084.

BLUEGRASS JAM, Tuesdays at the Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood, 7:30 p.m. Players of all levels welcome. Players $2, listeners free. Contact: Larry Lawrence Statland 472-6483.

Help wanted

GREEN PARTY now hiring door-to-door canvassers. If you are articulate, intelligent and politically motivated, please apply. Call 382-8378.

TEACH ENGLISH Overseas: Jobs $$ Guaranteed – Great Pay. TESOL Certified in 5 days in-class (monthly classes), on-line or by correspondence. **FREE** Information Seminar, every Monday @ 7 p.m. Bedford Regency, 1140 Government St. **FREE** Infopack: **1-888-270-2941** or **globaltesol.com**

WANTED: Post Secondary Inclusive Education Coordinator. See website: ipse.com/Vancouver%20Island.htm
Send résumés to VOICES, 6325 Oldfield Road, Saanichton, BC, V8M 1X8. Deadline: November 8, 2003

Accomodations

Gorge Waterway Apts.
Newly renovated bachelor suites – all inclusive. Now accepting applications.
Phone 388-5461.

Announcements

UVic Circle K Volunteers Club is going Trick-or-Treating for CANS and we would love for you to join us! On Oct. 31 we will be meeting in front of Cinecenta at 6:15 p.m. and then proceeding out to collect food donations for the local food banks. This annual event is a ton of fun and we usually get lots of candy too! Of course we dress up in costumes too, which is totally cool! Please come out on Halloween night with us as we would love to have you. Contact Neelam Sandhu at neelams@uvic.ca for more inforamtion.

Activist Video Night. Native rights night with "The Leech and the Earthworm" raising native concerns over genetic engineering and then "Take Back the Land" documents the Shuswap Band's battle for their homeland against Sun Peaks Resort. Both Native film producers will attend and answer questions.

CHINESE WING CHUN KUNG FU Tuesday & Thursday 7–8 p.m. Call Ray 383-0408. Visit www.springtimesong.com.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: Good natured, yet reclusive hamster named Tweezle. One and a third year-old healthy male. Comes free with "space station" cage and supplies. Loves yogurt drops and running in his wheel when no one's about.
479-0492

Lost & found

LOST: Mon. Oct. 20, navy blue umbrella with spots, compact in McPherson library, computer room 130, 2-3p.m.. Sentimental value. Please calll Ester 472-4972.

For sale

'91 Eagle Vista $2800. 598-2293.

Squash raquet BK-4850 (lightweight) and googles, ball. Barley used $70 (originally $125). Cell phone Fido vtech (blue) Barely used $50 (originally $100). Contact Kayt 592-8520 or kaytc@hotmail.com.

Speakers for sale. Excellent pair of 1972 KLH (Canadian) speakers. Approx. 2 1/2 ft tall. Asking only $120. Dixon 598-2466.

For hire

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Hey you!

Hiyo singles 2 volleyball. Second amongst singles, first in my heart. RW.

"What kind of a fool do you take me for? The cows are Not eating the radishes."
Jen

Dearest Las, happy anniversary. You are the best woman a man can have. Thanks for everything you've done for me. Love, your jow.

If I had the courage to let myself love you I would, but alas--I am yellow like the urine in the snow drift of life.
N.B.

LC. Check your mailbox. I'll see you next week. JG

Hello Kimmy, Davey, mommy, daddy – I'm trapped inside the martlet pages.
The undead journalist.

You may love moths or butterflies. But I will always prefer caterpillar. There's something to be said for innocence, not knowing dark or light.

To the Oak Bay Traffic enforcement Dept. get the fuck away from my windshield.
P.W.

You fucking dinks with the firecrackers, I hope you blow your hand off the next time you light one outside my apartment building.

My heart is yours to devour, Beth. Only you have the power.
Jacob

Stop coming to my door and preaching to me and trying to convince me that your God is the only one and that I am going to go to hell or some other place of torture if I don't agree. J.C.

To all of you who honey-coat things: don't be a coward, say it straight out.

You know what? I see your mouth moving, but I can't hear anything coming out of it.

Hey OpEd clones, the one with the toque, stop being so serious. N.H.

To the lady in the gorilla suit: You can peel my banana anytime.
The Pink Panther

To the staff at Zap! you're a buisness not a free service – stop being so rude.

Happy people live longer, so stop being such a dink.

Happy Halloween, eat candy–get fat.

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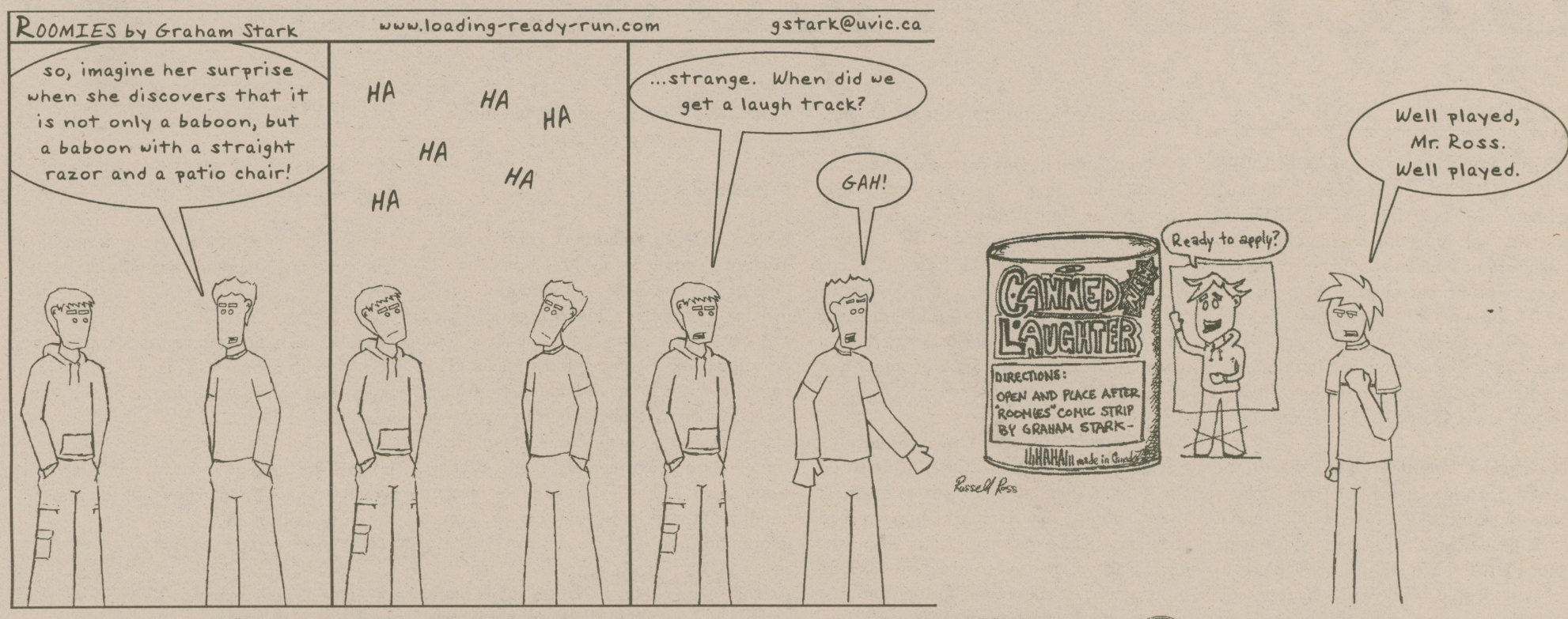
Pissed off? In love?

Send a Hey You! to oped@martlet.ca

ROOMIES by Graham Stark www.loading-ready-run.com gstark@uvic.ca


so, imagine her surprise when she discovers that it is not only a baboon, but a baboon with a straight razor and a patio chair!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
...strange. When did we get a laugh track?
GAH!
CANNED LAUGHTER
DIRECTIONS: OPEN AND PLACE AFTER "ROOMIES" COMIC STRIP BY GRAHAM STARK-
Ready to apply?
Russell Ross
Well played, Mr. Ross. Well played.

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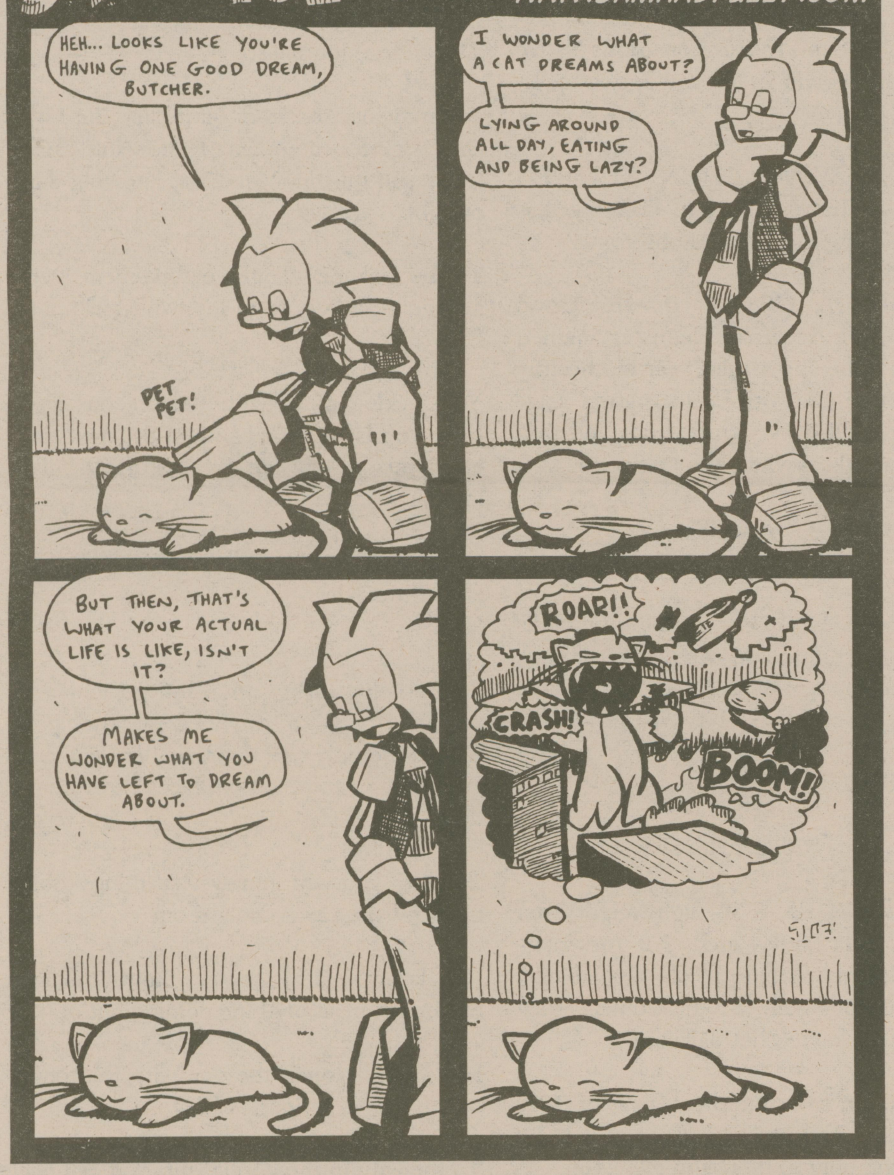
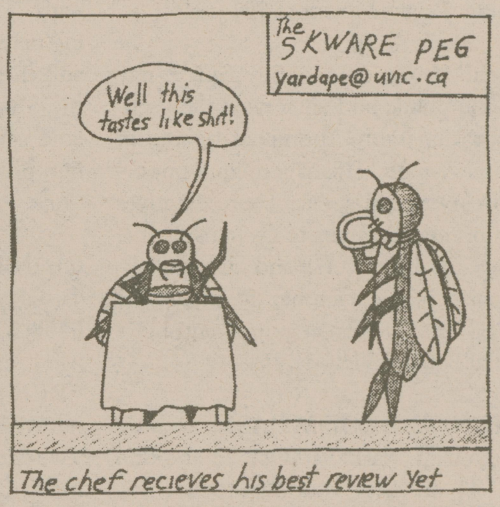
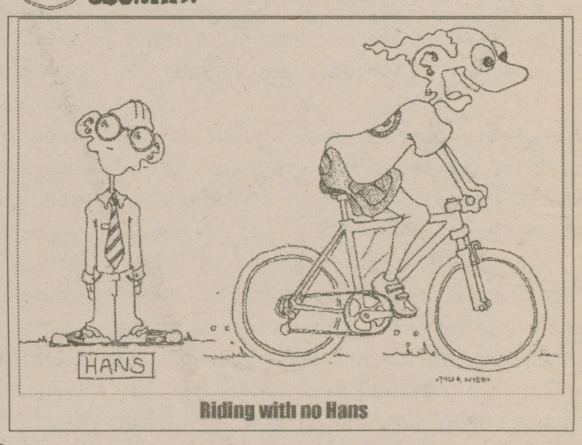
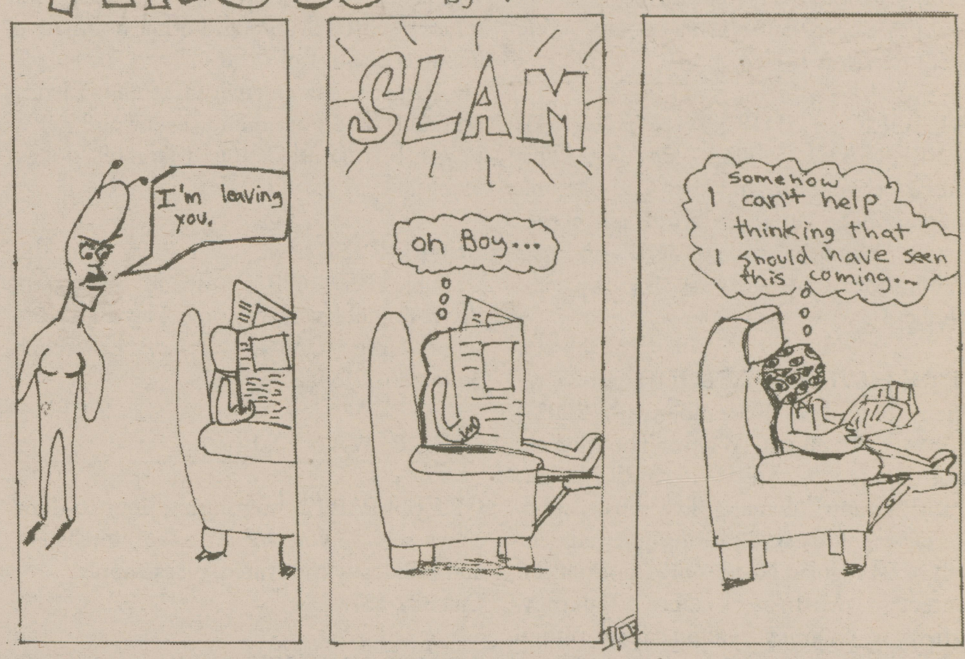

HEH... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING ONE GOOD DREAM, BUTCHER.
PET PET!
I WONDER WHAT A CAT DREAMS ABOUT?
LYING AROUND ALL DAY, EATING AND BEING LAZY?
BUT THEN, THAT'S WHAT YOUR ACTUAL LIFE IS LIKE, ISN'T IT?
MAKES ME WONDER WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT TO DREAM ABOUT.
ROAR!!
CRASH!
BOOM!
SLOT!

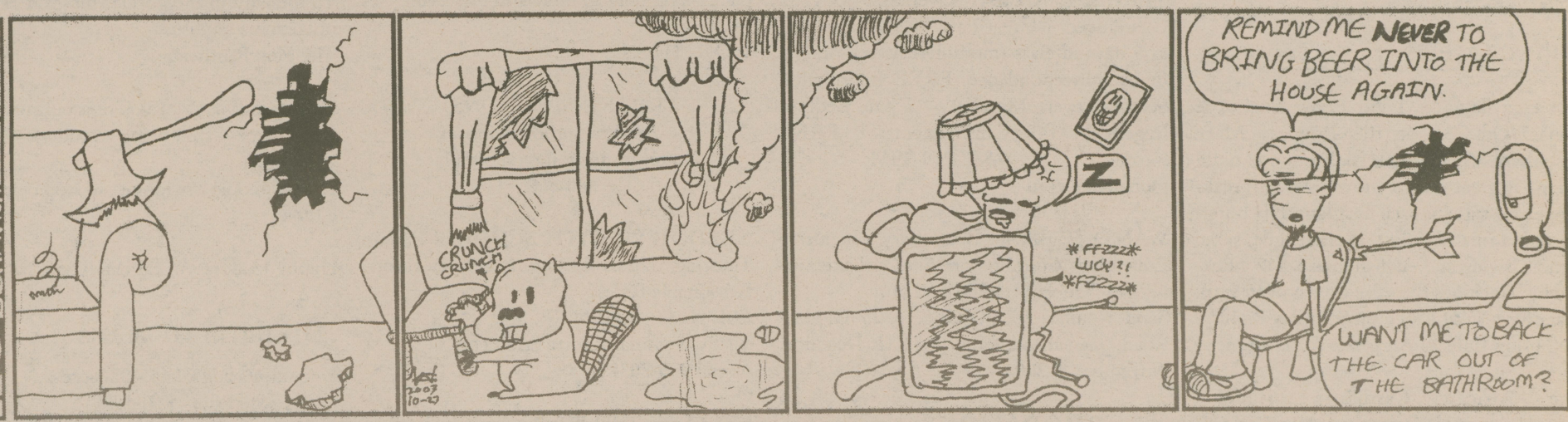




ARGUS By Tim Inkster.



HUGH'S BEHAVIOR BY CHRIS WOODING chwooding@hotmail.com


CRUNCH CRUNCH
FFZZZZ LUCK?! *FZZZZ*
REMIND ME NEVER TO BRING BEER INTO THE HOUSE AGAIN.
WANT ME TO BACK THE CAR OUT OF THE BATHROOM?

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